



Daily Report

Latin America

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26 February 1990

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Cuba

Malmierca, U.S. Envoy 'Clash' Verbally at UN

FL2402134090 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1203 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Cuba and the United States have staged a strong verbal clash during the special session of the UN General Assembly during which problems related to drug trafficking are being discussed.

Alternate U.S. Ambassador Alexander Watson reacted to the speech delivered by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who accused Washington of using the excuse of fighting against drugs to invade Panama and machine-gun a merchant ship operated by our country at high seas.

Malmierca defined as unspeakable scorn the fact that the United States has trampled the dignity of the Panamanians with the argument of an alleged antidrug crusade.

Using his right to rebut, the U.S. representative came up with justifications used by the White House and said his country invaded Panama to allegedly protect the security of the United States and that of the canal.

Perez de Cuellar Lauds Troop Withdrawal Decision

FL2302163990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed his satisfaction and happiness at the Cuban and Angolan decision to resume the gradual withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. (Francois Juliani), Perez de Cuellar's spokesman, told the press that the secretary general was informed of the agreement in a letter sent by Manuel Pedro Pacavira, Angolan ambassador to the United Nations; a copy of the declaration signed by both countries was also attached to the letter.

Soviet Army Anniversary Marked in Havana

FL2402161290 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1205 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] As it is traditionally done during this time, the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] have honored the Soviet Army on the occasion of the 72d anniversary of the creation of this armed corps. Division General Ulises Rosales, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, first deputy minister of the FAR, and chief of the general staff; and Yuriy Petrov, USSR Ambassador to Cuba, placed a floral wreath at the foot of the Soviet internationalist soldier mausoleum in the outskirts of Havana.

The ceremony ended with a military review. This formed part of the activities that took place in the entire country in honor of the Soviet Army's anniversary. The Soviet Armed Forces were created on 23 February 1918. At the

time they were called Red Army. This name was used again when the Great Patriotic War began after the Nazi-fascist invasion.

Vietnamese Defense Minister Tours FAR Academy

FL2402025190 Havana Television Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] A Vietnamese military delegation has been touring military units, visiting general staffs, and holding talks with the commands of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] since 19 February.

Today Army General Le Duc Anh, Vietnamese national defense minister, visited the the FAR's General Maximo Gomez Academy. He was accompanied by Brigade General Urbelino Betancourt, first deputy chief of the FAR General Staff. The Vietnamese minister received a detailed briefing at the academy on how the institution operates and the manner in which it fulfills the two principle missions assigned to it. The head of the academy, Brigade General Manuel Fernandez, defined the missions as developing the educational process and scientific-technical work in the FAR.

After examining the scale models of the battle of Dien Bien Phu and the taking of Saigon, the Vietnamese defense minister recalled the figure of President Ho Chi Minh, whose [word indistinct] will be marked on 19 May.

[Begin Le Duc Anh recording in Vietnamese with simultaneous Spanish translation] He dedicated his entire life to the work of independence with the slogan: Nothing is more precious than independence and liberty. Independence and liberty are linked to socialism. [end recording]

Spain Donates Funds; Contract Signed With Brazil

FL2402022490 Havana Television Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Spanish Government, through UNESCO, has donated \$100,000 to create a regional center that will train engineering and architecture professors in the use of computers in education. The project will be put into practice in July at the Jose Antonio Echeverria Higher Polytechnical Institute. [passage omitted]

The Brazilian firm, (Balbec, S.A.), today signed a contract with the Software Center of the Cubaelectronic Enterprise for the installation of the (Sinfat) computer programs in Brazilian sugar mills. These programs allow for the improvement of the production process in the sugar industry. It was developed by Cuban specialists from the Central Institute of Research on Sugarcane Byproducts.

Raul Castro Congratulates Turquino Plan Workers

FL2402020290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 0003 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Report by Gisela Bel Heredia from the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Good evening, Cuba. Delegates participating in the fourth course for Turquino Plan engineers received greetings this afternoon from Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. The event was closed at the FAR's Commandante Camilo Cienfuegos Artillery School in Havana. The message was conveyed by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, alternate member of the PCC, first vice minister of the FAR, and chief of the General Staff.

[Begin Rosales recording] The quality and youth of the students, the high percentage of party members and communist youths—especially the high number of women, a total of 90, which ratifies the willingness of Cuban women to participate shoulder to shoulder with their comrades in this beautiful task that includes the development of the coffee industry in our mountain area—was evident in this fourth course. [end recording]

Rosales del Toro also said that not only did these courses offer technical information, they were also aimed at the exchange of ideas on the development of the Turquino Plan in accordance with the political circumstances of our country.

[Begin Rosales recording] As you know, a first step in the strategy agreed upon is the completion in 1991 of the development stage of 1,000 caballerias. This opens up new harvest possibilities, which should increase in the following years once the new plantations begin their production cycle. The skills of the engineers and technicians play an important part here in assuring optimum attention to these coffee areas and in fulfilling all the technological requirements. The objective of the Turquino Plan is, first, to ensure the one million quintals of coffee produced in the country and also to exceed the

traditional high production levels in the mountains under different development conditions.

The Turquino Plan is a revolutionary program that forms part of the current process of the rectification of errors and negative tendencies and it has its roots in the current, principal guidelines for the development of the country's defense and in the express instructions issued by the commander in chief and the FAR minister. [end recording]

During the fourth course of the Turquino Plan engineers, discussions were held with leaders from the highest levels of the PCC, the Union of Young Communists, trade unions, and the Agricultural Ministry. Conferences were also held for the purpose of providing technical information pertaining to the work of the Turquino Plan engineers.

Letters From Captured Doctors in Ethiopia Arrive

*FL2302163690 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 90*

[Text] As a result of the efforts made by our government, which has had the praiseworthy cooperation of several friendly governments and the mediation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, letters arrived in our country yesterday from the six members of the Cuban medical team who were taken prisoner at the Asosa hospital while they were carrying out the noble mission of providing humanitarian aid in the health field to the Ethiopian people.

The letters were immediately handed over to the families of the internationalists, and all state that the six comrades are well and are hoping to be released soon. Cuba has continued to carry out intense negotiations to obtain the immediate release and return to the country of our compatriots.

Costa Rica's Calderon Arrives for Visit 20 Feb

*PA2002043690 Mexico City XHTV Television
in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Feb 90*

[Text] Costa Rican President-Elect Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier is in Mexico. Upon his arrival he said that he is interested in joining Mexico's cause in favor of peace in Latin America.

Upon his arrival in Mexico City for a 4-day official visit, Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier asserted that Mexico is an example to the world for its permanent struggle in the search for a just international economic order. He said that Mexico has marked an important road in the economic sector for all the Latin American countries.

[Begin Calderon recording] Mexico has had extraordinary successes in this sector. You have been the first to achieve a satisfactory settlement of the foreign debt and have marked the road for our nations. [end recording]

Calderon Fournier stated his wish to strengthen relations with Mexico to struggle for essential principles for peace, such as nonintervention. Speaking about peace in Central America, the president-elect of Costa Rica said that progress has been achieved with the peace plan, but it is necessary to respect the Nicaraguan people's right to choose their own destiny next Sunday, 25 February.

[Begin Calderon recording] It is necessary to maintain respectful relations with all the nations in the area. [end recording]

Mr. Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier and his wife, Gloria Bejarano de Calderon, were welcomed in the presidential hangar by Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana.

Meets With Salinas, Comments

*PA2402013490 Mexico City Red Nacional
13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 90*

[Report on news conference by President-elect Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier in Mexico City on 20 February]

[Text] Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, Costa Rican president-elect, has recognized Mexico's leading role in Latin American unification efforts while also noting the exemplary path taken by Mexico in renegotiating its foreign debt.

[Begin Calderon recording] The path taken by Mexico helps to strengthen Latin American unity. [end recording]

Calderon Fournier held a news conference after his 2-hour meeting with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. The Costa Rican president-elect stated that Latin American unity and the long awaited new economic international order are not short-term projects, so the struggle cannot be abandoned.

Answering a question, Calderon Fournier ruled out the possibility that his government will protect fugitives of Mexican justice, including his father-in-law Armando Leon Bejarano.

[Begin Calderon recording] You can be absolutely sure that we will in no way provide protection. [end recording]

Calderon Fournier regretted that no political solution has been reached in Panama and he said that a political solution is possible in Nicaragua.

Antidrug Agreement Signed With France

*FL2302144090 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0143 GMT 23 Feb 90*

[Report by Manuel Ocano]

[Text] New York, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo has reported that Mexico signed an agreement for a permanent exchange of information on anti-drug legal experiences with France and showed a willingness to sign a similar one with the USSR.

During a meeting with eight justice and interior ministers and representatives of 30 countries attending the UN meeting against drug trafficking, the attorney general expressed a willingness to continue an extensive antidrug campaign.

Alvarez del Castillo said: We will maintain the political and combative willingness we have had in Mexico in the last 14 months. The Mexican attorney general agreed with French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe to have a permanent exchange of legal and police antidrug experiences. The agreement includes the assignment of Mexican and French representatives in the two countries.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Alvarez del Castillo told NOTIMEX that Mexico believes the proposal submitted by Soviet Deputy Minister Viktor Komplektov on bilateral antidrug agreements is very important. He said: We are more than willing to exchange experiences that would allow us to intensify the fight against drugs in our country. The attorney general added that Mexico experienced during this first year of hard antidrug efforts the same thing that happened to Germany during World War II. We got there easily, but then the enemy reorganized and forced us to obtain allies, said Alvarez del Castillo.

He asserted that Mexico's position will be reflected during the approval of the UN political resolution regarding narco-trafficking and improper use of drugs. He said the Mexican contribution is reflected especially in the respect countries should have for the sovereignty and internal affairs of states during the global struggle against drugs.

At the same time, Mexico opposed the creation of an international anti-drug tribunal because it believes each country has specific methods of applying justice and generalization would conflict with the sovereignty of nations.

After meeting with interior and justice ministers attending the UN meeting, the officials expressed in general that developed countries should contribute with larger amounts of financial aid to the international fight against drugs.

El Salvador**Former President Duarte Dies of Heart Failure**

PA2302185590 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Report by Carlos Ernesto Rugamas]

[Text] Here is a last-minute report. Former President Jose Napoleon Duarte died at noon today, according to Dr. Jose Luis Saca, who was treating him. According to reports, the former president died at 1150 as a result of heart failure. We have also learned that top Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leaders, including former presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena, have already shown up at the house of the former president.

Mena has advised that the body of the former president and the founder of the PDC will lie in state at a funeral chapel in the Maria Auxiliadora Center for three days and two nights.

Mena also said his party will ask the Legislative Assembly to declare three days of national mourning.

FMLN Suspends Operations for Duarte's Funeral

PA2402010890 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos
in Spanish to El Salvador 0024 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] After a long and painful illness, former President Jose Napoleon Duarte died on 23 February. For many years, as the head of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], he tried to guide El Salvador toward democratic order. We must acknowledge that. In an alliance with leftist political forces, in what was called the National Union of Opposition (UNO), Duarte, with Guillermo Ungo as his running mate, won the 1972 elections. A long tradition of fraud deprived him of his electoral victory.

In January 1980, following the 1979 coup d'etat, Napoleon Duarte and his party made a pact with the Armed Forces and the U.S. Embassy and became the instrument of a counterinsurgency strategy that crushed his intention to promote a plan of reforms needed for the country. Napoleon Duarte was our political adversary and, unfortunately, was manipulated by the United States and the Army.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front conveys its sympathy to his wife, Mrs. Ines de Duarte, his family, and his [words indistinct] of El Salvador's PDC. As the communique issued by our general command notes, we will suspend our newly begun military campaign to allow the country's political and social forces to express their condolences. We express our condolences for the death of Jose Napoleon Duarte. He was a Salvadoran who undoubtedly had good intentions and a commitment to democracy, but was unable to carry out his plans, because of the brutal weight of the military and the Yankee counterinsurgency strategy, which, in fact, used him. We call on all our forces and urban cells to suspend military actions as of 0000 on 24 February until after the funeral of Jose Napoleon Duarte takes place.

7 Army Casualties in San Salvador Clashes

PA2302202990 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Two Army members were killed and five were wounded during heavy clashes that took place simultaneously in various places in the capital tonight, military sources reported. National Police agent Cipriano Aparicio Alvarez was killed when alleged guerrilla urban commandos machine-gunned policemen at the intersection of No. 5 West Street and No. 5 North Avenue. An Army member was killed when soldiers in a trench on Venezuela Boulevard, near [words indistinct] Roma, were machine-gunned.

An officer and four soldiers were reportedly seriously wounded during a heavy clash with guerrillas at No. 79 North Avenue. The skirmishes took place simultaneously at approximately 1900 in downtown San Salvador and in Roma, Escalon, and La Mascota neighborhoods, causing alarm among San Salvador residents.

Minister Says Government 'Ready' To Resume Talks

PA2302153890 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL
in Spanish 1223 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria has said that the government is ready to resume talks with the rebel groups, but no specific date for a meeting has been decided yet. Santamaria, who is a member of the government's dialogue commission, said that at meetings with the personal representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the government has stressed the need for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front to halt guerrilla actions that endanger civilian lives, to create an atmosphere that will guarantee sincere talks.

It was learned that the possible but uncertain talks will be attended by the UN secretary general. It is also believed that advisory commissions previously created by the government will take part in the resumption of the dialogue.

Christian Democrats Comment on Economic Measures

PA2302235490 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] According to a communique published today by the Christian Democratic Party, El Salvador requires international assistance because of the extreme poverty conditions in the country, which are aggravated by the Pinochet-like economic measures taken by the government.

[Begin Gerardo Le Chevalier recording] El Salvador needs international cooperation. Particularly important is the humanitarian aid directed to the population through the mayors' offices and nongovernmental organizations, thus minimizing the bureaucracy and corruption of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]. For this reason, we have proposed that the U.S. Congress

protect the politically vital agrarian reform process from those who, in the false name of economic criteria, are trying to destroy this reform. We have proposed that the colones resulting from the aid we receive in U.S. dollars, for instance the reinforcements of our balance of payments, be used to forgive the agrarian debt, which is impossible to pay. [end recording]

For the Christian Democrats, the political project of former President Duarte regarding the search for a democratic process, respect for human rights, and a political solution of the conflict is still valid.

[Begin Le Chevalier recording] This is a good opportunity to reiterate our admiration and gratefulness for the presidents who created Esquipulas II, particularly for Jose Napoleon Duarte. His faith in the Salvadoran people, his democratic conviction, and his untiring struggle have already been recognized in history. The force of his example commands our attention when we observe that President Cristiani is supported and praised abroad only when he follows in the steps of his illustrious predecessor. Those who arrogantly announced in their campaign that the Yankees have to go to hell today swallowed their pride and reached base extremes that offend us all, unashamedly surrendering our sovereignty, economic and military policies, and even the appointment of the government Cabinet. [end recording]

In addition, regarding the charge that the former government is responsible for the fuel price increase, Le Chevalier said such statements are as irresponsible as the government itself. The Christian Democrats have asserted that, so far, only the measures that favor the wealthiest among the wealthy have been applied, and that, if this economic policy is not corrected, the consequences could be unpredictable.

Zamora Discusses Economic Measures, Military Aid

*PA2402044390 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Feb 90*

[Text] Ruben Zamora, secretary general of the Social Christian People's Movement, who visited the U.S. Congress recently at the invitation of the Subcommittee for Hemispheric Affairs, said today that the approval of additional U.S. aid for the country could be conditioned to a negotiated political solution of the conflict and full respect for human rights in the country.

According to the leftist political leader, some congressmen who negotiated a \$5-million military aid package for El Salvador for 1989 are now advocating a reduction of this amount, which could be interpreted as a clear signal to seek pacification through dialogue.

[Begin Zamora recording] The problem is that what the Congress is discussing at present is how much to lower the aid, particularly military aid. This discussion, however, is being conducted in such a way as to make it clearly understood that there must be a political solution

to the Salvadoran conflict.¹ I find it particularly interesting that the senator who in September headed a movement to increase military aid by \$5 million is the same senator who today proposed to cut military aid by half of what had been approved. They are clearly aware that the Army did not get the message when they increased aid. Now they are trying to get the message across by cutting the aid. [end recording]

In addition, Zamora severely criticized the government's recent economic adjustments, particularly the fuel price increase, which have caused an inflation rate that strikes the low-income people particularly hard.

[Begin Zamora recording] For instance, carrots cost 75 centavos at the Central Market this morning. Last week, the same product cost 25 centavos. Cooking oil cost 4.95 colones last week and today costs 6.50 or 6.75 colones. The same is true of onions, whose price doubled last week. The price of meat has been raised one or two colones a pound from one week to the next. The problem is very serious. The problem is not only the attack perpetrated on the Salvadoran people's budget by raising the price of fuel, but that the policy outlined by President Cristiani and the minister of economy is a permanent slash in the pocket of the majority of Salvadorans. This slash will enrich the pockets of a small minority—those who own ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], who financed Cristiani's presidential campaign, and who are now demanding to return to power. [end recording]

The Social Christian People's Movement believes it is essential for all of the social and political forces to reach an agreement to protect the pockets of the Salvadoran people. Zamora underlined that an escalation of prices, such as the one taking place at present, increases Salvadoran society's polarization.

Guatemala

Doctor Released by Kidnappers, Travels to U.S.

*PA2402022490 Guatemala City Teleonce Television
in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Feb 90*

[Text] [Announcer] The case of Dr. Carmen Angelica Valenzuela Argueta, whose release by her kidnappers was officially announced on 18 February, was brought up again today after a human rights attorney stated his concern about the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Judging from the information given by relatives and friends of the aforementioned professional, she travelled to the United States on 18 February—hours after her release—in an attempt to recover from the trauma caused by eight days in captivity.

Nevertheless, Attorney General Ramiro de Leon Carpio gave statements on 22 February and said he is interested in carrying out an investigation on certain aspects that are still unclear concerning Dr. Valenzuela's release.

[Begin recording] [De Leon] We are waiting for additional information on the case because there is some confusion, and I want to clear everything up. The Attorney General's Office was anonymously notified last week that she would be released. Later, toward the end of the week, it was again reported that she would be released alive. This week I received information that she had called her relatives to state she was all right and that she was about to return.

Nevertheless, we have yet to ascertain if she is still in the United States or not—and that is what we are investigating right now. We know that she returned safe and sound, something that has made all Guatemalans quite happy, but the case is surrounded by mystery. We have not seen her, and we are concerned. We want to know exactly what happened because our obligation is to investigate as much as possible not only her return, but also the possible apprehension of the perpetrators of this flagrant human rights violation.

[Reporter] Do you know where she is in the United States—at least the state—right now?

[De Leon] We are carrying out the necessary investigation to confirm that she really left the country. We have yet to find that out. We have received no information, either from a national or international agency, about her. The only thing we know is that her relatives claim she is all right. [end recording]

[Announcer] Meanwhile, the doctor's mother, Mrs. Ofelia Argueta de Valenzuela, met with Government Minister Carlos Morales Villatoro on 22 February. According to the official, she delivered a letter of gratitude for the attention given to the case of her daughter's kidnapping.

Nevertheless, the doctor's mother says she knows nothing more about her daughter's situation in the United States because they have received only a telephone call. Mrs. Argueta reportedly told the interior minister that Dr. Valenzuela left on the afternoon of 18 February on a flight to the United States. Minister Morales Villatoro gave more details about the case on 22 February.

[Begin recording] [Villatoro] Yes, I believe we will talk with the attorney general. We must continue the investigation of other cases in which we are involved. We will gladly talk with the attorney general today because I have not been able to greet him. We do have a work meeting scheduled for next week. I believe we will then be able to talk to him about his doubts, concerns, and any recommendation he has made about cases that we are both working on.

[Reporter] Is the case still open?

[Villatoro] Yes, the case is still open. For example, I was to tell you that the summary was sent to the court, meaning that we have to proceed to the next phase. The first phase referred to her kidnapping, the second phase

was her return, and we now have to carry out an investigation to locate the kidnappers.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, did the police authorities have any contact with them?

[Villatoro] Excuse me?

[Reporter] Was there any contact with them?

[Villatoro] You mean the authorities with the...of course. Unfortunately, since she left on 18 February the work was hastily carried out. As soon as we were called by her friends, we ordered an investigation because she had to leave soon. That was her wish and we could not do anything about it because we understood her situation. She immediately left the country. [end recording]

Honduras

Minister Comments on New Loans From Venezuela

PA2302225190 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish
22 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Finance Minister Benjamin Villanueva reported yesterday that the Honduran Government has succeeded in securing new financing from Venezuela, amounting to \$11.3 million, to purchase crude oil, asphalt, and aluminum sulfate to purify water.

Villanueva and presidential adviser Emin Abufela returned from Venezuela yesterday, where they had met with government authorities to try to reach an agreement on Honduras' debt with Venezuela.

Villanueva said: "Our repayments to the Venezuelan financial organizations are permanently in arrears because of our lack of money. The trip we have just concluded has temporarily resolved this problem."

"We have succeeded in getting additional urgent loans approved so we can receive the asphalt required by Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula in approximately 45 days. We have been guaranteed two shipments, each of 220,000 barrels of oil, payable in 90 days. Basically, we have solved the supply problem with aluminum sulfate for purifying the drinking water in Tegucigalpa."

The minister said the two oil shipments represent approximately \$11 million, the asphalt approximately \$2 million, and the aluminum sulfate some \$300,000. "Various Venezuelan institutions have granted us these loans, which the government must repay in 90 days," he pointed out.

Honduras owes Venezuela approximately \$100 million. Villanueva said, however, that this debt is being refinanced so the country will be able to "meet the obligations with Venezuela."

Villanueva complained that the irresponsible handling of foreign currency last year, when personal needs were

given priority over urgent ones, "left us virtually without any foreign currency to meet the very urgent needs of the national economy."

He said in conclusion that the supply of fuel will be guaranteed in the next quarter through the Venezuelan oil that will arrive soon.

Nicaragua

UN Observer Report Praises Electoral Process

PA2402033390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0119 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The UN Observer Mission for the Verification of Elections in Nicaragua (ONUVEN) reached the conclusion today that the Nicaraguan electoral campaign has been "positive in an overall way" and that the elections will allow the people "to freely choose" their future government.

The fourth and last report published by ONUVEN before the elections states that "the Nicaraguan citizens participating in the elections will be prepared to decide between the alternatives, which have had a reasonable capability and opportunity to state themselves."

ONUVEN's "positive" evaluation of the campaign is based on the decrease in violence that occurred early in the campaign; the "impartial" attitude of the Supreme Electoral Council; and the existence of a legal framework that does not create "unacceptable unequal opportunities."

Nevertheless, the ONUVEN report presented today by Elliott Richardson, special representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, states that the campaign "has not been exempt from acts of violence and intimidation."

The report emphasizes the intimidation carried out against opposition party members and the contras' persistent armed actions—which are said to be responsible for the death of 11 persons, including several activists of the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), during the first half of February.

ONUVEN also mentioned the existence of "a series of actions that are clearly biased in favor of the government's party" at radio stations and on state-owned television newscasts.

The report states that ONUVEN is concerned because there is a possibility that "irregular activities may occur immediately after the voting tables are closed."

The UN observer mission, comprised of 48 officials, began its activities in August 1989 and has traveled 480,000 km in a relatively small country of 116,000 square km.

The ONUVEN observers have carried out more than 5,000 interviews and have witnessed more than 80 percent of the electoral actions.

ONUVEN will verify the "honesty" of the tomorrow's elections and will make a joint evaluation of the same, in coordination with the OAS observers and the "Carter Center."

CSE Issues Provisions for Media, Voters

PA2402170490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1520 GMT
24 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 24 Feb (DPA)—The Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) issued today a number of provisions for the local media banning them from reporting unofficial figures on the vote count or making predictions regarding a front-runner.

The CSE's Media Directorate sent the measures to all local media reminding them that once the vote counting begins, they may only report the official information that has been released by the electoral branch.

The ban includes airing interviews with candidates and voters in which they are asked who they voted for and making predictions that favor or oppose any of the 10 political parties in contention.

The electoral branch has banned the journalists from entering the 4,392 polling places unless they are accompanied by a candidate for president, vice president, or deputy candidates who are listed first on the deputy lists.

The Electoral Council has been temporarily tasked with monitoring Nicaragua's media in keeping with accords signed in August 1989 by President Daniel Ortega and the 20 opposition political parties registered in the electoral process.

The electoral branch will end this duty at 2400 (0600 GMT) on 25 February, when the Interior Ministry will take over.

The electoral branch also issued provisions for the voters in which they are not allowed to have any bags or cameras in their possession as they vote. Also, they may not wear any clothes that contain partisan propaganda of any of the 10 political parties registered in the elections.

Another provision, which will be in force today at 1200 (1800 GMT), bans the sale of liquor throughout the national territory until 1800 GMT on 26 February. This prompted Nicaraguans, who like to drink, to make their purchases early today.

The polling places will open tomorrow at 0700 (1300 GMT) and close at 1800 (0000 GMT) when the vote counting will begin behind closed doors at each one of the 4,392 vote-counting boards.

Observer Missions Issue Declaration on Elections*PA2602004090 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
25 Feb 90 p 2*

["Declaration" issued by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares; Elliot Richardson, special representative of the UN secretary general; and Jimmy Carter, president of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government; in Managua on 24 February]

[Text] The three missions have observed the electoral process in Nicaragua for more than six months. The missions believe conditions exist for the Nicaraguan people to freely express their choice on the day of the elections.

Tomorrow, the Nicaraguan people will cast their secret ballots. It is of vital importance that the voting be held in peace and calm. It is also extremely important that all Nicaraguans and the international community respect the results of the elections.

The personnel of the three missions will observe the elections and verify the final results. The necessary precautions have been taken so the election results will be verified with the most absolute precision.

The electoral process has had difficulties and moments of tension and has not been free of irregularities, which, fortunately, in most cases have been resolved.

In conclusion, it is our unanimous opinion that conditions exist for the Nicaraguan people to choose the candidates of their choice and thus decide the composition of their future government. The three missions urge the political parties to promise to accept the results so the national process of reconciliation will be based on mutual respect and tolerance.

In conclusion, they hope the Nicaraguan people will vote in peace and with the confidence that their decision on their future will be respected.

27 UNO Party Poll Representatives Arrested*PA2402183090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1745 GMT 24 Feb 90*

[Text] Managua, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE) — The National Opposition Union (UNO) reported today the arrest, in the past few hours, of 27 UNO party poll representatives and their transfer to various Managua police garrisons.

UNO Legal Advisory spokesman Hernaldo Zuniga told ACAN-EFE that 23 of the party poll representatives were detained on 23 February and 4 others were detained today, on the eve of the elections that will be held on 25 February.

Zuniga added that the party poll representatives have been accused of making electoral propaganda after the campaign's closure on 21 February, "but that is false, they are actually being detained because they are our party poll representatives."

Zuniga said this morning that representatives of the UNO Legal Advisory Commission will go to the Supreme Electoral Council, "and if necessary to the police," to request the release of the detained party poll representatives.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a prominent observer of the 25 February elections, said on 23 February that he has the list of the detained party poll representatives. He added that he is "investigating the accusations filed against them."

Carter also said that the observers will try to be present at all vote-counting boards where the detained opposition party poll representatives were supposed to be.

25 Representatives Released*PA2402204990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1945 GMT 24 Feb 90*

[Text] Managua, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Sandinist government today released 25 of the 27 National Opposition Union (UNO) party poll representatives who were detained after 18 February, accused of making electoral propaganda after the deadline for that activity ended on 21 February.

UNO's Legal Representative Hernaldo Zuniga confirmed the release of the detainees to ACAN-EFE, after efforts had been made at the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), which is the organization ruling the Nicaraguan elections.

However, the opposition politician reported that two party poll representatives were not released because, according to the military authorities, they must respond to accusations for alleged crimes involving murder and injuries.

"We believe that those accusations are false," Zuniga said.

Luis Sanchez, chief of the UNO press commission, asserted that UNO will not recognize the election results at the vote-counting boards at which UNO, for reasons beyond its control, has no party poll representatives.

The UNO spokesman referred to the opposition's party poll representatives when answering questions from a group of U.S. citizens from Wisconsin who are in Nicaragua to observe the electoral process that will culminate tomorrow.

The party poll representatives are electoral officials appointed by the Nicaraguan Electoral Council (CSE) based on lists presented by the political parties participating in the elections.

They are in charge of supervising the vote-counting boards, but do not sign the document on which the election results are recorded.

Sanchez said that during the past few hours UNO has received reports on various irregularities in relation to

the opposition's party poll representatives in various cities in the interior of the country.

Sanchez said that in La Paz Centro only nine party poll representatives received credentials, although there are 38 vote-counting boards in that city, located 70 km west of Managua.

He added that other credentials are being delivered with the names changed, although UNO presented its lists with the correct names and surnames.

"We are also afraid that those party poll representatives will not be able to carry out their important mission tomorrow," Sanchez stressed.

He also noted that at the vote-counting boards where the opposition has no party poll representatives, but where international observers will be present, should the results be favorable to the ruling FSLN, "we will have to qualify the observers before accepting those results."

FSLN 'Plans' for Election Disturbances Denied

PA2402145490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1205 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce, deputy coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, Executive Commission has categorically denied the statements made by Virgilio Godoy, UNO [National Opposition Union] vice presidential candidate, who said the FSLN will try to cause disorder during the 25 February elections by dressing up its activists as members of the UNO coalition.

Arce said he categorically rejects any claims that the FSLN is planning to do something. He said the FSLN is most interested in preventing something from happening, even bad glances among contenders of the different parties. Arce said nothing will be gained, not even if UNO appears to be responsible for causing disorder. However, if there are no disturbances, we will have gained something, Arce said.

In referring to the statements made by Enrique Bolanos, president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, to a foreign radio station, Arce said the statements were reactionary and would frighten any serious person.

[Begin recording] [Arce] Those statements, which frightened me after I listened to them, were made to Radio Netherlands. First of all, without the slightest courtesy, Bolanos accused the United Nations and the OAS of being organizations that are not interested in peace and democracy. He said they are pro-Sandinist organizations that have come here to cooperate with the Sandinists. He even said that before the carpenters had finished the boxes to be used for the ballots that we had already magically inserted 300,000 fraudulent votes. He is so absent-minded that he does not know the ballot boxes are made of cardboard and not wood. Of course, the story of the 300,000 votes is very disappointing because we thought he was a serious man. [end recording]

Contras Say War To Continue If Sandinists Win

PA2602023290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0120 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Report by German Reyes]

[Text] Yamales, Honduras, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Gathered at their garrison in Yamales, in Honduran territory bordering with Nicaragua, the main contra military chiefs said today that "we will continue with the war, and, if necessary, we will break with the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) if Ortega wins."

At a time when the election results are not yet available, Fremio Altamirano, Commander "Jimmy Leo," told ACAN-EFE that "if the Sandinists win, we will not return unarmed to Nicaragua. We will continue fighting as long as necessary."

"Leo" and other members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] General Staff are closely following the election results, monitoring Nicaraguan radio broadcasts. They reiterated their distrust that the elections were truly "clean."

The civilians and the other members of the RN who live in Yamales, where there is a group of barracks located just eight km from Nicaragua, are all very interested in what is happening inside Nicaragua.

The contras have the general impression that the elections will be useful only if the opposition candidate Violeta de Chamorro wins, but if the votes favor the Sandinist Daniel Ortega, they said they will not lay down their weapons.

To this effect, Benito Castro, Commander "Dimas," emphasized that "the new leadership of the RN is determined even to break the dialogue with the CIAV, if necessary, to continue fighting."

The CIAV is a joint organization of the United Nations and of the OAS that was created at the request of the Central American presidents to demobilize, repatriate, or relocate the contras into third countries.

"The truth is that we feel the CIAV is biased toward the Sandinists, and if it is necessary to break with them, we will do so," Commander "Leo" threatened.

At the same time, Commander "Dimas" emphasized that "we cannot be in agreement with the foreign organizations who want to force us to return to Nicaragua when they know that there is a tiger on the loose in Nicaragua."

However, the contra leaders admitted that the Nicaraguan elections will have a direct influence on their future relations with the Honduran Government that allows them to have a sanctuary in its territory, and with the United States that supports them financially.

"If President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and the Honduran Armed Forces tell us it is time for us to leave, then we will leave, but we will leave carrying our weapons," Commander "Leo" noted.

Concerning the United States, the contras do not know what to expect inasmuch as they feel "betrayed" by Washington, which "cut our aid two years ago," the commanders said.

"Undoubtedly we will have to adjust to the new circumstances, and we already began by appointing a new leadership that does not include Commander Enrique Bermudez, said "Dimas," who is chief of operations.

Before the other anti-Sandinist leaders, Dimas voiced the idea that "now that we have been waging this war for 10 years, it is necessary that there be some 'perestroyka' in the RN so we can continue ahead with our struggle against the Sandinists after these elections."

Arce Denies Mexico's PRI Financed Campaign

*FL2402164590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1620 GMT 24 Feb 90*

[Text] Managua, 24 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Commander Bayardo Arce today denied that Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) has given economic aid to finance the electoral campaign of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The chief of the FSLN electoral campaign said the reports of the ruling Mexican party's alleged aid were made by the U.S. State Department in an attempt to cast a stain on the future Sandinist electoral triumph.

Bayardo Arce, one of the nine members of the FSLN National Directorate, said he submitted a complaint to the U.S. representatives in Managua yesterday because of the reports of alleged PRI financial aid. He also denied that the PRI has provided technical aid or propaganda material to the Sandinists, who nominated President Daniel Ortega for reelection.

Ortega Views 'Future Negotiations' With U.S.

*PA2502013790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0000 GMT 25 Feb 90*

[Text] Managua, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—President Daniel Ortega stated today that he will invite U.S. President George Bush to the inauguration of his new government if he wins tomorrow's election.

"Of course I am going to invite President Bush to my inauguration (on 25 April). The doors of Nicaragua are open," Ortega stated at a news conference.

"We are ready to accept the people's decision, but UNO [National Opposition Union] is not going to win because it represents a setback," the Sandinist leader added.

Ortega also said that one of the points he must broach with the United States in future negotiations "is the matter of sending Nicaraguan weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas."

"I have been emphatic in stating that we do not send weapons to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and that we favor a negotiated solution to the Salvadoran conflict," he said.

The president added that there is a lack of trust in seeking a negotiated solution in El Salvador, but he said that for this there is the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), an organization charged with ensuring that a country is not used to supply weapons to irregular groups of another nation.

Ortega, a few hours before elections were scheduled to be held in Nicaragua, said that the immediate measures he will take upon winning the elections will be "to call on all Nicaraguans to take part in national reconciliation, to put in motion the socioeconomic forces to develop the country, and to appeal to the international community to support the Nicaraguan process."

Ortega on Spanish Role as 'Mediator' With U.S.

*PA2502023590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0120 GMT 25 Feb 90*

[Text] Managua, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—President Daniel Ortega stated today that Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez could be "the mediator between the United States and Nicaragua" following tomorrow's general elections.

Questioned by ACAN-EFE on the role the Spanish prime minister could play in the new Sandinist scenario, Ortega said that Gonzalez "has been so close to us during the process that he can contribute to achieving a rapprochement between Nicaragua and the United States."

"Prime Minister Gonzalez has a good relationship with (George) Bush and with us. Therefore, he could be a mediator between the two countries," Ortega added before approximately 20 international newsmen.

The Sandinist leader said it is necessary to put an end to the U.S. "warmongering" policy against Nicaragua, and, "therefore, the mediation of the Spanish statesman could contribute to changing that policy."

Ortega said that he does not dismiss the possibility that his party (Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN) may enter the Socialist International (SI) after the elections.

"We have participated in SI meetings, but thus far the necessary conditions have not existed for us to come closer, to take specific actions, because there are differences between words and deeds and everyone acts on his own, yielding to the U.S. pressures exerted on some Latin American countries."

Ortega criticized the current U.S. President, whose first international move was to visit East Europe to aid those countries, forgetting about Latin America.

"It is absurd that Bush is trying to solve the problems of East Europe, without thinking that Latin America can catch on fire and be hot on the back of the United States," Ortega stated.

On Central America, the Sandinist president said that the five countries of the region have agreed to coordinate a reasonable balance of forces.

"If Nicaragua had to boost its defenses, it was because of the war imposed by the United States. However, as soon as we have peace, our Army will be consistent with our socioeconomic reality," he added.

Ortega Praises Observers' 'Valuable Contribution'

PA2502041490 Managua Domestic Service
in Spanish 0240 GMT 25 Feb 90

[News conference by President Daniel Ortega at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...I am convinced that tomorrow the Nicaraguan people will display good citizenship. We will all vote with the conviction that this election is a tool that will contribute to peace, democracy, and Nicaragua's social and economic development. In all of this effort I must point out the work done by the observers from the United Nations, the OAS, and the Carter Center.

I have been talking to President Carter, [Belizean] Prime Minister [George] Price, and Senator (Evans) about my hopes that after 25 February 1990 a new era of peace and stability will open for the Nicaraguan people.

However, I still have a few worries. A few minutes before I met with President Carter, just as he was arriving at the convention center I was speaking by telephone with the defense minister, who informed me that counterrevolutionary groups opposed to the electoral process had infiltrated the towns of El Sauce and Achuapa in northwestern Nicaragua. Their plan is to hinder tomorrow's elections, but we have taken all the necessary steps to neutralize the actions of mercenary groups that have not yet understood that the war is a thing of the past, that we must end the war and work for peace. I encourage them to lay down their weapons and accept the peace plan.

I am also sure that tomorrow the Nicaraguan people will exercise their right to vote with bravery, dignity, and patriotism. I must repeat that all of these actions, all of these efforts in favor of peace and democracy, [words indistinct] the Nicaraguan people, and we have had the valuable contribution of the observers, especially President Carter, who has been in Nicaragua on several occasions and is genuinely interested in helping the Nicaraguans.

Ortega Comments on Elections, Contras 25 Feb

PA2502062090 Managua Domestic Service
in Spanish 0340 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Statement by President Daniel Ortega at a meeting with representatives of Latin American and Caribbean electoral tribunals; place not given—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...in the country's northwestern region, next to Achuapa and El Sauce. The central column has penetrated and is trying to approach this populated area of the city of San Miguel [words indistinct] Nicaragua toward Leon. This looks somewhat distant from Leon and [words indistinct].

Currently, there are different positions within the counterrevolution. Both are [word indistinct] the peace plan and [word indistinct] Nicaragua. Other contras have said that regardless of who wins the elections, they are going to continue with (?the confrontation) because they want to try to end the revolution and what it has been forging all these years. However, the people holding the hardest line recently expelled the main leader of the contras, a colonel in Somoza's National Guard, Enrique Bermudez. He and a group of contras were expelled from the command, and other contras assumed command because they thought that Bermudez, who is very closely linked to the Americans, was pursuing a policy of [word indistinct] and acceptance of a process of reintegration of the contras into Nicaragua.

Naturally, Bermudez has been living in the United States for many years. He has relatives in the United States. He has worked [words indistinct] with the United States in the organization of the contras and [words indistinct] contras have in fact been accepting the peace plan and accepting the fact that the contras must lay down weapons and agree to return to Nicaragua. The contra commanders did not like this and ousted him.

They have decided to go on with the confrontation. In fact, they have infiltrated approximately 2,000 contras into Nicaragua over the past few weeks in the traditional areas of confrontation, that is, in the mountainous areas of Jinotega Department and in departments in central and northern Nicaragua bordering on Honduras—Matagalpa Department, which is next to Jinotega to the south. Then comes Boaco Department, and then Chontales Department [words indistinct]. The departments are located from north (?to south)—Jinotega, Matagalpa, Boaco, and Chontales.

They have (?natural ports) and [word indistinct] reinforce these forces [words indistinct] Honduras and have dispersed their fighters to launch attacks and hinder the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] campaign. The [words indistinct] they killed four of our activists, including one party poll representative and a five-year-old girl. In addition, they have pressured the people into not attending the Sandinist rallies. Now they are (?murdering people), as part of this policy of hindering

the elections, particularly in the areas where they know the FSLN is very strong. They launch attacks with those fighters and [word indistinct] territory to prevent the people from voting and to encourage a low voter turnout.

They are planning to hinder the elections. They know the Sandinists are strong in the [words indistinct] area so that is where they strike. However, we have deployed forces to those areas so the people can vote, and we are gradually regaining control, forcing them to operate in more remote mountain areas. [Words indistinct] more populated areas. These forces have entered the northern and central parts of Nicaragua, and on two occasions they have penetrated further into the Pacific area.

[Words indistinct] north-south [words indistinct] in the departments of Chinandega, Leon, and Managua (?which are the departments near) the border with Honduras.

(?We will intercept their communications). They intercept our communications [words indistinct]. They have very good, modern communications equipment they have received from the Americans, and in the latest discussions in the U.S. Congress regarding the so-called humanitarian aid package to the contras, they also approved transportation and communications equipment. (?Communications for them are vital [words indistinct] to be able to [word indistinct] their forces during certain operations and to perpetrate the actions they have planned. In the communications we have intercepted, they are acting rapidly to [words indistinct] tomorrow. The contras do not want to go unnoticed on election day. They want to show that they are there, that they are a reality, and they want to find a way to perpetrate an act that will make an impact.

I have been in contact with the EPS [Sandinist Peoples Army], and I have been talking with the Carter group, with Belizean Prime Minister Price, and an American senator. We discussed this because [words indistinct] but in the night it is very difficult to locate a force like that. [Words indistinct] groups of five, eight, or 10 men, which are more difficult to (?capture) than one large group [words indistinct] and they could attack tables, (?block) roads so that the people cannot circulate, [words indistinct] to hinder the elections. [words indistinct]

Meanwhile, some sectors of UNO [National Opposition Union] [words indistinct] have been trying to (?calm) the situation.

I have reached the conclusion that (?there may be a few outbreaks) in some towns where the electoral campaign has been very polarized. These are small towns with small populations. I wanted to discuss this with the observers so they can send more representatives there [words indistinct].

So far the observers have played a very important role, [words indistinct] a few incidents, the observers were able to work with the police and political leaders to diminish the confrontations. There have been no further

political demonstrations over the past few weeks. I am sure that both the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and UNO have sent observers (?to the necessary areas) [words indistinct].

I have been informed of some contra activity [words indistinct]. Forces have been sent there but not in (?large numbers) [words indistinct]. We must adopt all the necessary measures to prevent the contras from hindering the elections tomorrow.

I wanted to greet the observers, to thank them for their presence in Nicaragua, for their concern for Nicaragua, for (?what is happening in Nicaragua), for the Latin American effort for peace and democracy in Nicaragua. Nicaragua and the United States have both proposed [words indistinct], and this proposal will be tested tomorrow. It will be a test of fire that will establish a precedent for Nicaragua's political future.

I hope that tomorrow we will conclude this electoral event successfully, in an atmosphere of normalcy [words indistinct] to contribute to (?detente) in Central America and also to contribute to strengthening the Latin American region's struggle for peace and democracy. (?which is linked) to the economic and social situation that seriously affects most of the Latin American countries.

I thank you for your presence in Nicaragua, for your solidarity with the struggle the Nicaraguan people are waging to build a better Nicaragua with peace and democracy.

Ortega on Election Outcome, Contra Activity

PA2502142690 Managua Domestic Service
in Spanish 1253 GMT 25 Feb 90

[?Impromptu" question and answer session by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporters at polling station No. 166 in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] ... the war and the offensive that the United States has launched against Nicaragua. The country is now entering a new era of peace.

[Unidentified reporter] Has your government anything new to offer?

[Ortega] We will achieve peace. The elections will help us achieve peace and dismantle, once and for all, this counterrevolutionary armed project sponsored by the CIA and the U.S. Government. This armed project will not prevent the Nicaraguan people from giving their full efforts in the social and economic fields. [Words indistinct] there are so many observers in Nicaragua, the people trust the electoral process so much, so many people are participating in the elections, so regardless of what the CIA does, it will not be able to hamper the process. [Words indistinct] the people are making a decision today during the elections, which have observers from the OAS and the United States.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what would your message be for the Nicaraguans who are voting?

[Ortega] Mine is a message of peace to all of the Nicaraguan people. The vote at this particular moment is the main instrument in achieving peace. When we vote for the revolution and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], we are voting for the one organization that guarantees peace and stability in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the contras' attacks?

[Ortega] The contras have remained active, not only in the country's (?west) as was reported last night, but (?elsewhere) where fighting has continued. The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] has also been operating in the countryside. The contras have continued their activities against the civilian population. [words indistinct] Measures are being taken to check their actions, although the contras have been active. Of course, this is a complex task because we are talking of rural and mountainous zones in Nicaragua's northern center.

[Reporter] What measures will your government take against the contras?

[Ortega] We have already taken measures. We have deployed the Army. Despite this, some of the compañeros will be unable to vote because they must defend their fellow Nicaraguans' right to vote by using their weapons. At this moment, the military service is showing that it is serving the Nicaraguan nation. The soldiers are guaranteeing the right to vote for all Nicaraguans.

[Reporter] Commander, Violeta Chamorro has said that if you win, she will congratulate you. Would you do the same if she wins?

[Ortega] Well, I expect to be congratulated by Mrs. Chamorro.

[Reporter] You are being heard in Peru at this moment. What message do you have for the Peruvian people?

[Ortega] Greetings to the Peruvian people who have expressed solidarity with the Nicaraguan people. To them goes my love, affection, and admiration.

[Reporter] Mr. President, do you think the program that the Mexican Government has implemented to resolve Mexico's foreign debt can be applied in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] No, because each country has its own political stand and makes its own decisions. We must respect each country's decision. Nicaragua also makes its own decisions.

Ortega Comments Further on Elections, Contras

PA2502222590 Managua Domestic Service
in Spanish 2103 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has said the U.S. Government has already expressed willingness to

improve its relations with the Nicaraguan Government. The president was interviewed by reporters this morning, shortly after voting at one of the vote-counting boards in El Carmen neighborhood in Managua. Here are President Ortega's statements:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr. President, what will happen today after 2200 or at midnight, when Nicaraguans will be waiting for the results with much happiness and enthusiasm?

[Ortega] Well, we are going to ratify our confidence in the future, in peace, and in the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] as guarantor of the peace and stability that the Nicaraguan people yearn for so much. I firmly believe that today all Nicaraguans are casting their votes in slot No. 5, which represents Nicaragua's independence, self-determination, sovereignty, peace, and stability, and which will allow all Nicaraguans to attain a true reconciliation and carry out a policy of national unity in which we will not refuse each other but will rather help each other. Therefore, voting for the FSLN today, and marking votes in slot No. 5—where the Sandino red and black flag is located—is a vote that represents making a decision for Nicaragua and for the interest of the Nicaraguan people, the working people, and all social and economic sectors, and it will ensure pluralism, a mixed economy, and, in the international arena, a policy of nonalignment.

[Reporter] Can people celebrate this triumph after midnight?

[Ortega] Of course. We are already celebrating it.

[Reporter] Will you [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] No, I will stay here for a while. Then I will have to oversee electoral matters and the contra activities. I will have to follow up this situation with the Defense Ministry and the Interior Ministry to avoid serious setbacks today, so elections can develop as honestly as possible. Then I will have to meet some visitors.

[Reporter] Do you have any specific information on the contras' activities up until this time?

[Ortega] Well, there have been some activities in the zones already mentioned, which are situations that have already been reported in the Departments of Chontales, Boaco, Matagalpa, and Jinotega. There are some 150 contras who are quickly infiltrating the northeastern sector of the country, in El Sauce and Achuapa. The contras are trying to create a greater presence in zones closer to the Nicaraguan Pacific Coast, where there is a greater population and where their actions would have a greater impact from the propaganda point of view.

[Reporter] Besides the contras, what other dangers could affect the electoral process?

[Ortega] There is the danger that some sectors in the United States could refuse to accept the election results. Some extremists are already saying that if the electoral

results show the FSLN is leading by less than 10 percent, then that means there will be fraud and they will therefore not recognize the results. However, those are truly absurd statements, because the U.S. Government itself has expressed it will respect the election results. The U.S. Government itself is announcing its willingness to reach an understanding with me and with the Nicaraguan Government after the elections. In other words, the U.S. Government itself is assuming that the FSLN has attained an electoral triumph. The U.S. Government itself is already convinced that the Nicaraguan people are voting en masse for the FSLN today. Therefore, the U.S. Government is also getting ready to reach an understanding with Nicaragua that will permit the normalization of relations between the United States and Nicaragua.

Ortega Willing To Accept UNO Victory

PA2602002590 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
25 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] For the first time, President Daniel Ortega said on 24 February that he and the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] would accept an election victory of the National Opposition Union (UNO).

For weeks the opposition had been demanding a reciprocal statement from Ortega, since UNO presidential candidate Violeta de Chamorro said some time ago that UNO would recognize an FSLN victory if it won.

Ortega had evaded answering this question in front of international reporters. However, according to the Spanish news agency EFE, on 24 February Ortega said: We are ready to accept the people's will. For the first time, Ortega admitted the possibility of an electoral defeat in another interview with Spanish television, in which he refused to estimate the percentage of the vote he would receive in his hypothetical victory.

It is significant that during the past few hours Ortega has not made any accusations against UNO, which means that he has run out of arguments.

At all times UNO has said that it only advocates peaceful elections and has no intention of carrying out any action that will violate the regulations set forth by the Supreme Electoral Council, which it has given its full support.

It was well known today that Ortega has adopted a more reasonable position, since prior to this he would only talk about his triumph and refused to accept the possibility of a defeat. In addition, he insisted on accusing UNO of plots that never existed.

Vice President Views Elections, U.S. Relations

PA2502170390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1434 GMT 25 Feb 90

[News conference held by Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado with unidentified reporters at Pancasan Vote-Counting Board No. 997 in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ramirez] ...free elections are being held for peace in Latin America and the achievement of peace in Central America. The Nicaraguan people's will to achieve and their desire for reconciliation is evident today. [Words indistinct] continue to vote for peace, reconciliation, and a better future.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] El Salvador.

[Ramirez] [Words indistinct] armed conflict in El Salvador through a dialogue and agreement [words indistinct] Central American presidents signed an agreement in San Isidro de Coronado. The Salvadoran people should know that Nicaragua will [words indistinct] supporting the presidents' pledge in San Isidro de Coronado. The country is calm, except for the counterrevolutionary raids that you know about. The vote-counting boards are operating normally and the country's Armed Forces are prepared to reject any attempt to disrupt peace and order [words indistinct]. The raids have occurred in Choapa and El Sauce municipalities.

[Reporter] Have there been clashes?

[Ramirez] They have been acts of violence. The counterrevolutionary forces have said that they will not accept the electoral process or the results, and they are trying to hinder the elections. However, this is not the most important thing. The most important thing is the long lines of voters waiting at the vote-counting boards, prepared to civically and peacefully cast their ballot. That is what matters to the Nicaraguan people right now. The counterrevolution will become a shadow of Nicaragua's past at midnight today. It will become a long gone shadow of a painful past. The counterrevolution is over here forever.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] similar circumstances?

[Ramirez] Those are two different circumstances.

[Reporter] What will you do if the U.S. Department of State does not accept.

[Ramirez] The U.S. Department of State has to accept the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] victory. This is an opportunity for the U.S. to prove to the world that it is capable of building new relations with small countries just like the Soviet Union is doing.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] you sure?

[Ramirez] I believe that is a certainty. [laughter] I believe they are going to accept the Sandinist victory, and we will not rub the Sandinist victory in their faces. Instead, we will offer the victory as an opportunity to establish cooperation between the United States and Nicaragua, to normalize relations, and to avoid confrontations between the two countries. That is our wish and we hope that the Bush administration will want that—and we are sure it will.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] reconciliation?

[Ramirez] The FSLN will work on this starting tomorrow. The president has decreed a political truce aimed at ending the disputes and temporing the language used during the electoral campaign. This sort of situation usually occurs in politics when tempers rise. We will offer an olive branch, a peace offering, to the opposition. Nevertheless, we will have to wait for the president's victory speech at midnight tonight.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] what will be the first gesture of good will from the U.S. Government?

[Ramirez] Well, they could start by immediately turning over all the resources that they have been supplying to the counterrevolutionary forces in Honduras to the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification], so it can begin organizing the contras' repatriation to Nicaraguan territory. We are prepared to receive the contras, who must return here with their families, to determine how they can be relocated, and to provide for their personal safety. However, the U.S. Government must tell Congress that those resources will now be given to the CIAV, that there are no more funds for the contras, and, consequently, that the war is over. That is what peace in Nicaragua means.

[Reporter] When will the president give his victory speech?

[Ramirez] At midnight tonight.

[Reporter] Where?

[Ramirez] We will announce the place later.

[Reporter] Dr. Ramirez, any commentary on the civic culture that the electoral process in Nicaragua is promoting?

[Ramirez] Well, these elections are an example for Latin America. I have stated that there has been only one person killed in these elections, aside from the contra attacks, which are a military matter. It is true that human lives cannot be measures in statistics and even a single death is deplored, but the electoral processes elsewhere in Latin America result in violent actions and dozens of deaths. This has been evident in many of the latest electoral processes in Latin America. We believe it is a great victory that the electoral process has occurred without bloody incidents, street fights, or violence; and the Nicaraguan people are reaching the end of the process by participating in a civic action. The fact that this day is going by like this—in peace, order, and calmness—will prove the Nicaraguan people's civic maturity.

Virgilio Godoy Interviewed on Elections 23 Feb

PA2302232390 Managua Radio Corporacion
in Spanish 1430 GMT 23 Feb 90

[News conference by Virgilio Godoy Reyes, vice presidential candidate for the National Opposition Union, UNO, at the International Press Club in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Godoy] ...particularly since December, with some special contributions that we received from abroad as a result of activities carried out by Nicaraguans in Miami, San Jose, Costa Rica, Los Angeles, Tegucigalpa, and Guatemala. The approximate cost of our campaign is close to \$900,000, compared to the \$30-million cost of the Sandinists' campaign.

[Moderator] We urge journalists to wait until they are given permission to speak, and to please identify themselves and the media they represent.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] your opinion of the U.S. State Department's position of not recognizing the Sandinist victory even if [words indistinct] and that it will be necessary to wait a certain period of time before normalizing relations with Nicaragua.

[Godoy] What I have heard is that the U.S. Government's official position is that it will recognize the elections if they are held correctly. I am not aware of the version you have just mentioned about a possible quarantine. In any event, the deterioration in relations between Ortega's government and the U.S. Government is an old problem, which we believe can be solved through a new government different from that of the Sandinists of the past 10 years.

[Moderator] We inform journalists that this news conference is being broadcast live by Radio Corporacion and therefore is being heard by a large audience.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] I have never mentioned \$15 million. I have always said that the Sandinists have spent \$30 million during this campaign.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] \$15 million 48 hours ago, where did the other \$15 million come from?

[Godoy, in English] Who said that?

[Reporter] Mr. Cesar, 48 hours ago said \$15 million [words indistinct].

[Godoy, in English] Where, where? We are not saying that you are lying, I mean, here is Mr. Godoy. Mr. Cesar could have a figure of \$15 million and...

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[Godoy, in English] Well sir, let me talk. He [words indistinct] million dollars for expenses. Maybe there were 15, 18, 30, 40, nobody knows.

[Reporter, in English] How did you come to these figures if nobody knows? That is what I am asking, how did you come to these figures?

[Godoy, in English] [Words indistinct] calculation. Nobody can calculate or know precisely the numbers and say there were exactly 30 million dollars and 48 cents. Nobody knows. You see, this is a campaign [word indistinct] by the government, by the state, and nobody

knows. We have mentioned irregularities and those are precisely one of the irregularities. [in Spanish] As a clarification, the 21 February Sandinist demonstration alone cost more than \$1 million. Just on 21 February. That can give you an idea of what is happening.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] The same demands that have been posed since 4 November 1977. I mean the demands for democratization in all sectors [words indistinct] to democratize the Constitution [words indistinct] to guarantee the constitutional dictatorship.

[Moderator] Next question?

[Reporter] [Question Indistinct]

[Godoy] I do not believe it is very important whether it is a million more or a million less. However, there is a disproportion. There has been an enormous disproportion between the resources handled by the Sandinists and by UNO. It can be seen easily. It does not need to be explained any further. You can go out into the streets and at once you can see for yourself the disproportion between the resources handled by Sandinism, which are resources that belong to the state, and the resources handled by the opposition, which are a result of collections.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] We are going to have them until the end because the Sandinists are still spending money freely.

[Reporter] How can you explain that now that the campaign is almost over [words indistinct] to know the final results, discarding last-minute irregularities, what are you going to do on the day the vote-counting begins?

[Godoy] The other day I was speaking to Mr. Richardson, Perez de Cuellar's personal envoy. I told him that we would be satisfied with the elections ending correctly so we could recognize the results, whatever they might be. We are even putting aside all our limitations and all the advantages that the government awarded to itself during the electoral process while the opposition was being penalized. If things are clean on 25 February, we will prove that despite those obstacles and limitations, the opposition can win, and that if we do not win, the results will be endorsed by the international observers and by the opposition poll watchers. That is, unless there is a serious irregularity at the last moment.

I mention this because we have learned that FSLN activists are going to be dressed up in UNO and Civic Way t-shirts and caps to try to promote disorder and blame it on UNO. This can only mean one thing, that such disorder would serve as a pretext for any action that the government may want to undertake in case they lose.

[Question] Dr. Godoy, with regard to what you said about the result of the voting [words indistinct].

[Godoy] Of course, we would not recognize it, because that would be going against our own vote. If the elections are not clean, we cannot as of now promise to recognize the results of fraudulent voting.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] We are telling all our activists to strictly observe the proceedings to avoid fraud from being openly committed.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] The information comes from sources within the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]. Some persons connected with it have been regularly providing us with details of what is happening. As I told you, these are unnamed, but reliable sources. As for the National Assembly, it will have a major responsibility in the process of democratizing the country's institutions, primarily because of the possibility of again reviewing the Constitution to establish a balance of power that is currently missing.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] what will those conditions be for you to consider the elections [word indistinct]?

[Godoy] The absence of any alteration of the results. As I said, the FSLN has control all across the electoral mechanism. This situation is in line with that old national advice that the one that counts the votes, wins, regardless of the results. The majority it holds allows the government to certify a certain result. However, if the results do not reflect what truly happened that will not be [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Will that be the sole condition?

[Godoy] That is one of them, but we could impose a condition that will exert pressure in that direction. There is a plan that the Supreme Electoral Council will in the end allow, to let soldiers vote first. This privilege is granted to try to make civilian voters grow tired or deter them by having them stand for many hours waiting their turns.

That would be another type of maneuver that we must try to eliminate. However, there have been other maneuvers, including the expulsion of party poll representatives from the Vote-Counting Boards [JRV'S] during the voting period, particularly at the time of the vote count. We could mention many other examples linked to that problem. We have confidence that these elections will be conducted in an appropriate manner and in strict fulfillment of and with respect for the law. In that way, the election results will be recognized by everyone.

[Denis] I am Felix Humberto Denis from the [words indistinct] and Washington. I have two questions. What is the present percentage of opposition party poll representatives in each JRV and how many JRV's are without UNO party poll representatives? The second question is: How many voters included on the official voter lists have been verified by the opposition?

[Godoy] Let me answer your first question. UNO is massively represented in the JRV's, except for two places, to which we had no access because they are considered highly restricted military areas. One area borders Honduras and the other borders Costa Rica. UNO, however, will have a virtually universal presence in all other JRV's.

As for the second question, we started to conduct a process to verify the veracity of the voter lists, but it was not completed because of the lack of time and resources. We have found some irregularities, such as duplicate names, voters' names being changed, names on the voter lists not matching voter identification cards, and other irregularities, but in general, we believe those minor details will not affect the final election results.

[Ambotti] Mr. Godoy, I am Aldo Ambotti from France Press. If the Sandinists win the 25 February elections and you consider it a fraudulent victory, what attitude will UNO adopt, what kind of call will you make—in addition, of course, to not recognizing that victory—to UNO followers to face that alleged fraud? How do you plan to face such a situation? Second, do you believe the Sandinists can win only through fraud?

[Godoy] That is what they have been trying to do. They have been creating conditions that we call an atmosphere of fraud. I said some time ago that there has been a lengthy and thorough intimidation process in which members of State Security have visited house after house, person after person, to force them not only to give up their candidacies for municipal posts, but to force them to state that they oppose UNO. This has resulted in a unique situation that includes systematic persecution in work centers against anyone who is working within the UNO framework—particularly in state-owned enterprises and public offices within the government's bureaucracy. I want to state quite clearly that we are not saying that there has been fraud or that the country's authorities are accomplices to fraud. We have said that we want a clean process and that we will be satisfied if this occurs on 25 February. Only if a clean process does not occur will we not recognize the results.

[Ambotti] The other part of the question is how are you going to react if...

[Godoy, interrupts] The first reaction would be public accusation of the irregularities. Then we would see what other forms of peaceful resistance can be adopted to counter eventual manipulation of the electoral results.

[Reporter] Would UNO [words indistinct] UN and OAS observers to accept the electoral results?

[Godoy] I have said this since the beginning. We will adopt a decision depending on the endorsement...[corrects himself] on what the official observers and our inspectors say.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] Castro. There are reports that the [words indistinct]. Nevertheless, those people

can [words indistinct]. This means that there is a party [words indistinct]. There are also reports about a rift between you and Violeta Chamorro [words indistinct] letter sent by the guerrillas to the CSE [Supreme Electoral Council].

[Godoy] I said a short while ago that there are two types of observers—institutional observers and the observers sent by the committees of solidarity, who wear red handkerchiefs and are actually not observers at all. They are simply Sandinist sympathizers. Their opinion has no value for us; it cannot have any value for us because it is definitely a biased opinion. In addition, the Sandinists have always harbored hopes of finding and exploiting a rift in my relations with Violeta Chamorro.

So, this old Sandinist hope, or wish, is not coming true, like the wish to see UNO blow up into a thousand pieces. As I have said, it is healthy, widowed, energetic and strong, and promises to have much more time available to attend to the country's problems.

[Moderator] Julio Ibarra.

[Ibarra] Dr. Godoy, Sandinist sympathizers are trying to secure victory based on several elements and captive votes. They are juggling figures and taking into account the thousands of peasants to whom they have given land, the thousands of public employees, and the pressure on state-run enterprises and the military. Therefore, they are predicting victory based on these captive votes. May we have your comments on this?

[Godoy] There is one reality that supercedes the realities you mention. It is that even the most humble Nicaraguans are tired of the war and the crisis, and they know that the war and the crisis are directly linked to the 10 years of Sandinist rule. For that reason, and contrary to the legend that has been built for foreign consumption, the most radical anti-Sandinists are not in the urban centers, but rural areas. We have perceived, felt, and experienced this throughout the past few months as we campaigned in the areas that are farthest away from the capital.

[Reporter] Dr. Godoy [words indistinct]. Until a couple of weeks ago, the UNO leaders said they were so sure UNO would win, that the FSLN could achieve victory only through fraud. Now you and all of the leaders are talking about an eventual fraud. What is the reason for the current prudence, particularly in view of the activity of the observers, the reports, the polls, and [words indistinct] international organizations [words indistinct]?

[Godoy] Your question is interesting. I will try to respond to your questions. You talk about an eventual victory or eventual defeat. I have simply tried to adjust to the terminology you are using because you apparently feel more comfortable that way. We are certain of victory. I am personally sure of victory. We do not believe our people are a bunch of masochists who enjoy suffering, but people who want to find a way to change

things so their right to peace can be restored, as their right to well-being should be restored too. This is simply what is happening. Now then, no one can assert that he has a given margin of votes, even based on the polls you mention. It is also interesting to note that when people want to talk about this topic they refer only to the polls in which the Sandinists appear to win, but not to the polls in which the opposition is shown winning. Everyone is talking about the latest poll taken by the U.S. newspaper or the one taken by the Public Opinion Institute of Venezuela [Instituto de Opinion Publica de Venezuela] quite recently, which say exactly the opposite.

There is an explanation for this. In my opinion, the method of taking polls as a means to determine the electoral attitudes of Nicaraguans is not as valid here as it would be in Costa Rica or in the United States, where polls have been taken for a long time. We could say it is a traditional tool there. However, here in Nicaragua, in an atmosphere that is largely contaminated by the terror imposed by the Sandinists' Interior Ministry, anyone who answers will do so cautiously, trying to guess who the poll taker is and thinking that the poll taker may turn out to be a State Security agent. The story is different here. That is why the polls give conflicting results, depending on the perceptions the one answering the questions may have about the pollster at the time of the question.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] No, they do not.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] will you support, even though you are not (?in the government), the peace process proposed by the FSLN as the only way to solve the crisis?

[Godoy] The peace process proposed by the FSLN has always been based on military solutions. We have said that we are endorsing that agreement with that type of proposal, which only leads to introducing further elements of friction in our nation's society. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] Personally I do not.

[Moderator] Let us continue.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] There is no sense in allowing the participation of those who have caused so much disaster in the country for 10 years. The FSLN must also educate itself to work for the country from the opposition.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] It is very simple. What is happening here is that we are all fighting for the survival of the Nicaraguan people in general. That is why all political organizations

have forgotten about their own specific vindications. They have been working for the things they consider to be useful for the country regardless of political affiliation or ideology. That is what makes the entire organization more interesting. UNO is virtually composed of the entire spectrum of the country's political and ideological interests. UNO represents all the basic interests of the country.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] That is very clear, and besides, it is an internal decision for UNO, which will be made following the general elections on 25 February.

[Moderator] We advise our colleagues that because of the many commitments that Mr. Virgilio Godoy has, this news conference was originally planned for [word indistinct], but we have now been holding this news conference for 55 minutes and Mr. Godoy will have to leave at 0900. Therefore, the next questions will be the last and the news conference will have to end. [Words indistinct] will now ask the final question.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Godoy] The Sandinists have said many times that they believe they will lose in the 4th and 5th Regions of the country. However, we believe that they will also lose the 1st, 2d, and 3d Regions. They do not have many regions left willing to vote for them. They will especially get votes from the military sectors, which is where the heart of the party lies. We have found that even the majority of public employees have shown their inclination toward UNO. Therefore, we believe there will be a massive rural vote for UNO and we believe that there are large towns that have shown their willingness to vote for UNO, including Managua, which led to the Sandinist reaction two days ago.

[Reporters] What other cities?

[Godoy] Masaya, Granada, Esteli, Somoto, (Los Cocotal), Leon, Chinandega, Juigalpa [words indistinct]. [laughs]

BARRICADA: Godoy 'Softens His Tone'

PA2502052890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
24 Feb 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] Visibly defeated, with the marks of defeat clearly etched in his face, Dr. Virgilio Godoy was forced yesterday afternoon to amend the words he uttered a few hours earlier when he engaged in an all-out confrontation with candidate Violeta Barrios regarding recognition of the results of the election.

Although at times he again used haughty rhetoric against Sandinism, Dr. Godoy took advantage of an impromptu news conference in Bambana to soften his tone with reporters, whom he had attacked furiously at the Press Club. Although his remarks were ambiguous, he spoke

for the first time of recognizing the results of the election "as long as they are clean and honest."

Godoy's confrontational language yesterday morning irritated a sector of UNO [National Opposition Union] that supports Mrs. Barrios [de Chamorro], who had expressed support for the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] resolution calling for respect for the rules of the game in the elections. The candidate also said that she would respect the results of the elections.

The UNO vice presidential candidate publicly disagreed with the opinion expressed by Mrs. Violeta, when he said: "We are in agreement on some points of the CSE resolution but cannot accept it in its entirety, because it includes some ideas with which we disagree, such as totally endorsing now whatever decision the CSE makes on that occasion."

To increase his differences with the presidential candidate, Virgilio Godoy noted that "Mrs. Violeta has personally said and delivered a note to the CSE saying that UNO supports the CSE resolution, but deep down it has reservations about recognizing any CSE decision on the elections in advance."

"This is so, because the CSE often seeks to criticize the opposition, yet allows the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] to get away with a lot."

In his morning statements, Godoy harshly criticized the foreign reporters. This alarmed the Political Council, which "twisted his arm" so he would retract his earlier statements in the Bambana speech.

In the morning, he accused Jose Esteban Quezada, DPA press agency correspondent in Managua, of being a Sandinist for having "awkwardly and grossly" manipulated the report on the number of supporters gathered by UNO and the FSLN on 18 and 21 February, respectively.

He said DPA "is represented in Nicaragua by a Sandinist who reported that on 18 February, UNO had managed to gather 30,000 persons. On 21 February he sent another dispatch, saying the FSLN had gathered 3 million persons in the Plaza Parque. That was an awkward and gross exaggeration," he shouted.

Journalist Norbert Peter Schnorbach, DPA director for Central America, was in the same place and protested to the candidate at the end of the conference "for having told pure lies."

"We have never mentioned such figures. We can show with copies of our press dispatches from our office in Managua that what you have said here is false," he said.

Caught by surprise, Godoy attempted to justify his lies, claiming that reports from Costa Rica indicated that those DPA reports had been published in a newspaper of that country. "Although he was never able to state the name of the newspaper," Schnorbach said angrily.

Hours later, Dr. Virgilio Godoy, flanked by all the members of the UNO Political Council, tried to speak in a conciliatory manner with the reporters and toned down his rejection of the electoral authorities.

"If the results are in agreement with the opinion of the observers, party poll representatives, and reporters who certify what happens, we will automatically and quickly recognize the victory of whoever wins."

When a reporter insisted and asked if they would accept the official results, Godoy responded: "What I have just said and what Mrs. Violeta said is quite clear on this topic."

Asked if Bush had abandoned UNO to its fate in view of its imminent defeat to the Sandinists, Godoy left the Political Council and reporters perplexed when he replied without blushing: "We have not depended on the Bush administration. Therefore, whoever has not been with us all this time cannot be said to be abandoning us."

He continued: "The fact that the U.S. Government has a foreign policy that includes aid, such as the \$9 million, has nothing to do with us. I did not request it, and I did not accept it." At the news conference, Godoy spoke of the alleged arrest of "22 UNO party poll representatives in the region of Managua," but was unable to explain the real causes of the arrests to reporters. A police source told BARRICADA last night that Wilfredo Campos Cajina was detained for attacking Guillermo Oswaldo Perez, an FSLN member in the Omar Torrijos neighborhood. Three other UNO members, identified as Jose Campos Solis, Alberto Morazan Alvarez, and Dimas Alvarado Molina, were arrested for disturbing public order in Miguel Gutierrez neighborhood.

It was learned that the Political Council "hosted a party for the reporters to make up for the insults they received from Godoy yesterday morning."

The impact of the offenses were observed by the presence of only about 30 reporters, compared to more than 500 who participated in the conference held by President Daniel Ortega.

'Historic' Elections Begin on Schedule

PA2502133490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The voting tables opened today at 0700 (1300 GMT), for the elections in which 1.7 million people will vote. More than 2,500 observers will be watching the elections.

The elections, which have been labeled as "historic," are aimed at electing the president and vice-president of the Republic, legislators, councilmen, and, for the first time, the autonomous councils of the Atlantic coast.

Voters can choose from 10 different tickets, but according to polls, only two candidates have any possibilities of winning the Presidency, Daniel Ortega of the

FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and Violeta Chamorro of UNO [National Opposition Union].

CSE Head Affirms Soldiers May Vote in Uniform

*PA2502143390 Managua Domestic Service
in Spanish 1351 GMT 25 Feb 90*

[Statement by Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren, president of the Supreme Electoral Council, CSE; place not given—live]

[Text] We have received reports that, particularly in the 5th Region, there have been some problems because citizens have come to vote in their Armed Forces uniforms.

At their request, we are hereby stating flatly that the members of the Armed Forces have every right to vote in uniform. They cannot, however, bear arms. May I repeat, the Armed Forces members can vote in uniform. They have every right to do it. This right is recognized by law and the CSE regulations.

Contras Kill EPS Officer, Wound 3 Recruits

*PA2502145290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1425 GMT 25 Feb 90*

[Text] Managua, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Defense Ministry announced today that a Sandinist People's Army (EPS) officer was killed and three young recruits were wounded in an attack by a group of contras in Boaco Department, in central Nicaragua.

Military sources informed ACAN-EFE that EPS Lieutenant Francisco Antonio Martinez was killed on 24 February by an anti-Sandinist group in the El Chato area of Boaco Department. The source added that three youths, who were serving terms in the obligatory military service, were wounded in the same attack.

On the same day, other rebel groups kidnapped four civilians from the towns of La Cusuca, and Boaco in central Nicaragua.

President Daniel Ortega said that 150 contras entered Nicaraguan territory in the past few days to hinder the elections that began throughout the country today.

Voting Halted in La Cruz; Threats Cited

*PA2502170890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1635 GMT 25 Feb 90*

[Report by Carlos Tellez Monterrey in Bluefields—live]

[Text] Good morning to all our listeners. Here is a special report.

Local electoral council members and political party representatives have decided to close a vote-counting board in the peasant sector of La Cruz de Rio Grande

because of the actions of the counterrevolution, which has been threatening to assassinate peasants if they come to vote.

Also, two FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] activists, Felix Diaz and Margarito Banegas, were kidnapped here on 21 February. One of them was a supervisor at the vote-counting board that had to be closed. The people demand that the lives of these kidnapped FSLN activists be respected.

In addition, the situation prevailing in the 37 vote-counting boards installed here in Bluefields is relatively normal. The citizens have arrived respectfully to cast their votes. No one has been rejected for carrying party signs, being drunk, or disrespecting the authorities. Misquitos, Sumus, and Creoles from the Fatima, Big Hole, and Old Pan neighborhoods have arrived en masse to exercise their rights at the various vote-counting boards.

The presence of observers from the United Nations, OAS, Carter's group, and a Canadian group has also been reported. They have been accredited before the Supreme Electoral Council and have the credentials to observe the electoral process.

Borge Notes Brief Disruption of Matiguas Voting

*PA2502180390 Managua Domestic Service
in Spanish 1732 GMT 25 Feb 90*

[Live report by Polo Sevilla]

[Text] Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge Martinez has said that measures adopted by the Sandinist Police at the national level have been effective so far. So far, no incidents have occurred at any of the voting tables, except for the counterrevolutionaries' activities [words indistinct] prevented the opening of some vote-counting boards.

Borge added that six vote-counting boards were closed briefly in Matiguas and another zone because of the contras' presence. However, some of those vote-counting boards have been reopened elsewhere so the citizens may cast their ballots.

Interior Minister Tomas Borge also said that a vote-counting board had to be closed in La Cruz de Rio Grande, located in the southern Atlantic region, given the contras' presence. He said that all is in order throughout the country, and the police are working so the citizens may freely exercise their right to vote.

U.S. Official 'Disobeying' Electoral Policemen

*PA2502195290 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1815 GMT 25 Feb 90*

[Report by Gustavo Vindel in Esteli—live]

[Text] Raul Segovia of Ocotol reported a few moments ago that the second secretary of the U.S. Embassy, John Shearburn, showed up at several vote-counting boards in Ocotol and barged in without heeding the electoral

policeman's order not to enter because he was not accredited as an observer. The U.S. official went into one of the vote-counting boards and later came out. The official did the same thing at several vote-counting boards in Ocotal, disobeying the electoral policemen's orders. He entered those places to take notes on how the voting was proceeding.

Violeta Chamorro Urges Calm After Incident

*PA2502201690 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1800 GMT 25 Feb 90*

[Text] Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, UNO [National Opposition Union] presidential candidate, appeared at polling station No. 154 near the Sandinist Television System approximately 20 minutes ago to vote. Two incidents occurred that we would describe as open provocations by contra leaders who have been granted amnesty recently. These leaders, openly and brazenly, engaged in political propaganda for the alliance. These leaders included Roger Miranda, Carlos Quinonez, and Azucena Ferrey, who shouted slogans. Two or three people replied with weak applause.

On her way home, Dona Violeta was surrounded by reporters. Her campaign leader, Antonio Lacayo, hit a foreign reporter in the chest and virtually tore the man's shirt away. The shirt was unbuttoned. This is a provocation seldom seen in the country, especially involving foreign correspondents. Later, Dona Violeta commented.

[Begin Chamorro recording] I want to tell my friends, the reporters, and all of those who are here, that the people at the electoral vote reception board misbehaved badly. Some people might distort the incident by saying that we were the ones who did wrong and that, for this reason, the office was [words indistinct]. [Words indistinct], it will be your fault. I think [changes thought] I ask you to have common sense and be calm so we all can act as brothers. You came here to cover a democratic event, not one dealing with masses or mobs. I do not want to have to say mobs and masses again. I want you to keep this in mind from now on. [end recording]

Large Voter Turnout Reported in Elections

*PA2502210190 Paris AFP in Spanish 1831 GMT
25 Feb 90*

[Text] Managua, 25 Feb (AFP)— The citizens of Managua were slowly fulfilling their electoral duty this morning to decide whether or not to continue the Sandinist revolutionary experience in Nicaragua.

More than 450,000 voters are registered in Managua, which represents more than one-fourth of the nation's electoral registry.

Judging from the long lines at the vote-counting boards and from the people whose thumbs bear indelible ink, the voter turnout seems to be high.

People living in the densely populated 19 July neighborhood—some of them dressed in military uniform—waited for approximately 2 hours for the opening of the vote-counting board, which was installed in a kitchen.

The voters must mark an "X" on each of the voting slips they are given, thus electing the new president, deputies, and mayors of Nicaragua.

The process is slow and the voting might be extended so all those who are standing in line before 1800 (0000 GMT) may vote.

According to the first voters' replies, a hard-fought result is expected. An interviewed couple proved this. The man says he voted for the Sandinist National Liberation Front, whereas the woman accompanying him says she voted for the National Opposition Union (UNO).

Furthermore, the UN and OAS observers have been seen throughout the city, carrying radio communication equipment.

No incident had occurred in the capital by noontime.

CSE President Reports on Election Procedures

*PA2502215290 Managua Domestic Service
in Spanish 1943 GMT 25 Feb 90*

[Statement by Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren, president of the Supreme Electoral Council; place not given—live]

[Text] This is to report on the evolution of the elections so far today, 25 February 1990. The elections are proceeding normally at the vote-counting boards [JRV's], with the exception of those affected by contra activities in the 6th Region, where seven JRV's could not be installed because of the presence of armed counter-revolutionary groups in (?Rancho Grande) in the valley of Musawat. Something similar happened in La Cruz del Rio Grande, in Region 8, which comprises the North Atlantic Autonomous Region. In addition, about 12 JRV's had to be relocated in this area because the citizens had to be given the opportunity to vote.

The elections are proceeding normally at the rest of the JRV's. No major problems have occurred so far. We are appealing to the party poll representatives so we can all continue to set the same example of civic-mindedness, order, and democracy we have set throughout the day.

There are some things I would like to remind the citizens, the party poll representatives and leaders, and the JRV officials. In the case of international observers, there are three categories: observers of international organizations, guest observers, and observers with courtesy passes.

The three types of observers may enter the JRV's to view how the citizens identify themselves, prepare their secret votes, and then deposit their votes in the electoral box. The voters' fingers are then cleaned with acetone and marked with indelible ink. The Venezuelan Supreme

Electoral Council provided us with this ink, made by University of Venezuela scientists.

However, these observers must fill out certain forms to prevent any disturbances that might disrupt the voting process. That is why we ask the observers to carefully follow procedures. That is, they must first report to the election policeman who maintains order in each JRV. He is wearing a blue and white uniform. The observers must present their identification card to the JRV chairman, so he may authorize the entry of the observer. The JRV chairman is the authorized person who is responsible for the operation of the board.

We also want to point out we have received reports to the effect that some political parties are conducting campaign activities in the areas close to the JRV's, and even inside the JRV's. That has been prohibited. We want to prevent this type of problem, and we ask those persons conducting this type of activity not to do so.

Many citizens, even some JRV officials, have asked about some ballots that have some blank columns. This does not mean these ballots are not valid. Listen well. The fact is that the ballots for president and vice president of the Republic—the ballot that is marked with the black line in the back—have all 10 columns filled because the nine political parties and the National Opposition Union [UNO] all presented candidates. Therefore, all 10 columns have the flags, their identification, and the names of the candidates.

However, in the ballots for National Assembly, the fact is that some parties did not present candidates for some regions. In that case, the columns assigned to those parties are left blank. If this had not been done, we would have had to alter the order given to each party. As you well know, each party has been using its corresponding number, that is, the number of the column assigned to the party, to campaign for their candidates.

I repeat, the ballots for the legislative assembly corresponding to some regions, some municipalities, and the regional autonomous council of the North Atlantic are correct and have been printed correctly. In other words, the blank columns correspond to parties that did not present candidates. That is perfectly legal, but some columns were left blank.

It is important to ask for the cooperation of the media so they will remember they are not to be making any predictions or projections of the election results. They must wait for the Supreme Electoral Council to make such announcements. We expect to be making those announcements very shortly after the closing of the JRV's.

This is a special request for the radio stations to cooperate with the Supreme Electoral Council radio network that is for the exclusive purpose of guiding our citizens, the JRV members, and the party poll representatives on the actions they should follow. That is the purpose of this radio network. We ask that they do this because we have

observed that some radio stations have not joined the network, and that is not right.

On the other hand, I want to call on the citizens who have not yet voted in the morning to do so in the afternoon. We remind you that the JRV's close at 1800 unless there are still citizens waiting in line at that hour. To have quick results available, it is very important that the citizens must vote as early as possible. In this way, the information can start flowing as soon as possible into the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center, where we have our vote-counting offices. Remember, all Nicaraguan citizens must have cast their votes by 1800. Thank you.

UNO Reports 'First Irregularities' in Elections

PA2502222890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2135 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan opposition charged in Costa Rica this afternoon that the ink being used during the voting process in Nicaragua today is not "indelible," as had been previously stated.

A communique of the National Opposition Union (UNO), under which Violeta Chamorro is running, was released in San Jose over a local radio station that is heard in southern Nicaragua. The communique reports the "first irregularities" in the elections.

"Opposition coalition candidates Violeta Barrios and Virgilio Godoy have charged that the supposedly indelible ink being used to mark the right thumb of the voters can be easily washed off with Clorox or merely soap and water," the communique, which was read by an individual who said he was a spokesman of the UNO press office, stated.

It indicated that the ink donated by Venezuela "could well have been replaced or mixed with some chemicals that could make it easier to wash off."

It also charged that UNO poll representatives—the number was not specified—have not been given their credentials in time and that the police have taken away the credentials of others.

The communique also said that the credentials of some poll representatives have been issued with the names of people who are not found on the UNO lists.

It added that eight polling places in Matagalpa and Jinotega Departments did not open because "the necessary security conditions did not exist."

According to the communique, ballots have arrived incomplete in polling places in Chinandega and Leon Departments. Despite this, it was stated that the elections are being held in "a civic spirit" and amid "absolute calm."

UNO Supporters File Voting Complaints

PA2602011490 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
2318 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The most recent communique, which we have just received, reads as follows:

Complaints: Bottles of indelible ink were open upon arrival in Matagalpa Department and most ballots were torn. Colonel Salvatierra reported that 10 vote-counting boards [JRV's] in Matagalpa Department, 20 in Jinotega Department, and one on the Atlantic coast did not open.

Mr. Cesar Divas has reported the following: Miami radio and television is announcing that so far the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] is winning over UNO [National Opposition Union] with 99 percent of the votes. It is believed that Marvin Ortega, director of Hispanics [not further identified], is transmitting this information from the Olaf Palme Convention Center to the U.S. newspaper THE LOS ANGELES TIMES.

At JRV No. 209 in the Jonathan Gonzalez neighborhood, an FSLN poll representative is demanding that voters show their ballots, and if they have voted for UNO those ballots are rendered void by marking the other boxes also.

Another complaint filed at UNO's Press Center in Managua states that at JRV No. 379 in German Pomares neighborhood, the voters are forced to vote at the table in front of everybody and if they vote for UNO their ballots receive the same treatment as described before; that is, the other boxes are also marked, thus rendering void those ballots and the votes that Nicaraguans have cast for UNO.

Another complaint filed by UNO members in writing here at the Press Center in Managua, Nicaragua reads as follows: JRV No. 044 of Masaya received altered voter lists, with 114 registered voters too many. At JRV's No. 649 and No. 396, the indelible ink could be taken off easily. The complaint was filed by Marta Auxiliadora Blanco Chavez and Juan Francisco Davila Arguello.

Poll representatives are not signing ballots at JRV's No. 174 and No. 175. The following complaint was filed at JRV No. 214 in (Uflanes) de Nejapa, located 1.5 km to the right of Nejapa Cemetery: There were no UNO poll representatives there and truckloads of military men were brought in to vote at that JRV and did not allow civilians in the line to vote.

Mr. Jaime Garcia, UNO coordinator in Masaya, reported the following: On 24 February at 1900, at the FSLN office a half block north of the National Development Bank, a pickup truck unloaded UNO t-shirts and caps, with who knows what purpose in mind.

CSE Says Voting Done in 'Absolute Normalcy'

PA2602003190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
2319 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Statement by Dr. Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren, president of the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), at the CSE Computation Center—live]

[Text] I am addressing the Nicaraguan people, my fellow countrymen, when it is 45 minutes to 1800, at which time all vote-counting boards [JRV's] throughout the country will close. I call on all those citizens who for any reason have not been able to vote, to go to the JRV where you registered your voter registration cards and properly identify yourselves and comply with your civic duty, the duty that all Nicaraguans have to help consolidate our democracy and help Nicaragua achieve the peace that we all want.

It is very important to point out that the elections, that the voting has taken place with absolute normalcy. There have been unfortunate incidents in Region 6, where seven JRV's were unable to open as a result of counter-revolutionary military actions, and 12 others were relocated for the same reason. Also, in Region 8, which is the autonomous South [as heard] Atlantic region, one JRV was unable to open. In the rest of the country, the elections have taken place in complete normalcy. We have given a good example of our civic spirit.

Once the voting ends, our fellow citizens must leave and wait for the results of the elections that we will announce from the CSE Computation Center. The CSE reminds you that you must not stay near the JRV's, you must not claim victory, and you must not make predictions of who won or lost the elections. Quite the contrary, in keeping with a 19 February CSE resolution, which was supported by all political parties, everyone must refrain from making this kind of prediction, from engaging in victory celebrations, and from gathering near the JRV's.

Actually, as we have been saying, the situation has been almost normal. We have found some problems. One example is the fact that we found out that the ink used in some JRV's to mark the fingers of voters who had cast their votes did not last long enough, and that chlorine bought at the diplomatic stores could be used to remove the ink mark. This is true. However, this does not invalidate the electoral process, because the indelible ink used at the voting process is not the only guarantee existing to ensure a clean, just, and honest election. In many, many of the JRV's the ink used has remained and cannot be removed. Special chlorine would be required to remove the ink mark. We have confidence that Nicaraguan citizens have not done this. We are sure about this.

Therefore, other protection mechanisms determined by the electoral law—which have been detailed by the CSE—continue operating. The voters list was purged to the point that, in the most recent list the National Opposition Union [UNO] presented—which allegedly

included a duplication of names—we found that only 796 names of the names included in the list were truly duplicated.

The seal stamped on the voter registration card, the presence of party poll representatives in most JRV's in the country—there are an average of over two party poll representatives in each JRV—and the existence of the rule that makes the citizens register and vote at the same JRV, using the voter registration card in the presence of the JRV made up of neighbors, allow us to ensure the Nicaraguan people that this election has developed normally. We will begin reporting the results shortly after the closing of the polls.

Citizens, please, I repeat, at this time 40 minutes are left before the JRV's close, unless there are citizens waiting in line. Please go to vote with your voter registration card. This is absolutely necessary to vote. You must go to cast your vote with your voter registration card before the polls close, so we can give, as we will do, the election results, which are the wishes of the Nicaraguan people as expressed by their votes. Thank you very much.

Polls Close as Scheduled

PA2602002890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0001 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The polls closed as scheduled throughout the country at 1800 (0000 GMT), bringing to an end a very normal voting process today.

More than 1.7 million Nicaraguans may have voted today to elect the president and vice president, the members of the National Assembly, and the municipal councils, and for the first time, the members of the "autonomous councils" of the Atlantic Coast.

Although the Nicaraguans could choose from among 10 tickets, according to all the polls only two candidates have a chance of winning the Presidency: incumbent President Daniel Ortega of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), and Violeta Chamorro of the National Opposition Union (UNO).

CSE Reports First Official Election Results

PA2602025690 Managua Domestic Service
in Spanish 0140 GMT 26 Feb 90

["First official election results" read by Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, President Mariano Fiallos from the CSE Computer Center in Managua—live]

[Text] On behalf of the CSE, I offered to read the results as follows: We will begin with the first telegrams received, and after that we will report total figures for the three elections by region, municipality, and, naturally, national results. It was agreed at meetings with political parties that this will be done after receiving the results from 15 percent of the Vote-Counting Boards [JRV's]. We do not know at what time this will be. We have only

received four telegrams so far, because evidently the closing of the polls at 1800, the vote-counting, signing of documents, and filling out the telegram form will require some time. We hope to begin receiving a large number of telegrams a little after 2000 [0200 GMT 26 February].

At the moment we have four telegrams, which I will read in the order in which they arrived. I will mention the TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] branch—made available to us by agreement with the corresponding minister—where the telegrams were delivered.

The first telegram was received from the Ocotal branch. It came from the municipality of Jalapa, Nueva Segovia, a rural JRV. The telegrams read as follows:

Total votes: 19; all valid

For President:	
UNO [National Opposition Union]	5
PSOC [Social Conservative Party]	1
FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]	11
PSC [Social Christian Party]	2
For National Assembly:	
UNO	5
PSOC	1
FSLN	11
PSC	2
For Municipal Councils:	
UNO	6
FSLN	10
PSC	3

The second telegram was received from Condega, also a rural JRV located at the Arenales School. The telegram was sent by the Condega branch. The results were as follows:

For President:	
Total	69; all valid
UNO	4
FSLN	65
For National Assembly:	
Total	69; all valid
UNO	4
FSLN	65
For Municipal Councils:	
Total	69; one null vote; 68 valid
UNO	4
FSLN	64

The third telegram we have received comes from La Trinidad branch, Esteli Department, Region I, which is also a rural JRV also located at La Cana School. This JRV shows:

For President:	
Total	11; all valid
UNO	7
FSLN	4
For National Assembly:	
UNO	7
FSLN	4
For Municipal Council:	
UNO	7
FSLN	4

The fourth telegram received comes from the Boaco branch—a rural JRV located at the Luis A. Velasquez School. The results reported are:

For President:	
Total	35 votes cast; three null votes; 32 valid
UNO	24
FSLN	8
For National Assembly:	
Total	35 votes cast; two null; 33 valid.
UNO	25
FSLN	8
For Municipal Council:	
Total	35 votes cast; three null or blank votes; 32 valid.
UNO	24
FSLN	8

I want to repeat to the Nicaraguan people, to newsmen, to political parties, candidates, and their followers, that after this overall information provided on the normal development of the election and the voting, and the fact the vote counting is developing normally, and we have begun receiving telegram reports on the voting, we are going to suspend giving information—in agreement with political party representatives with whom we met—until we have 15 percent of the JRV reports. As you saw in the four telegrams we just read, all of them come from rural areas, and only from Region 1 and Region 5. Once we have 15 percent of the JRV reports, we hope to have more comprehensive data that will include more—or if possible all regions, all rural and urban JRV reports—which would thus give an idea on the vote trend. With this we have complied with the promise we made to the political parties. We hope we will be able to provide information soon, when we have received 15 percent of the JRV reports. Thank you very much.

UNO Center Says Sandinists Cut Telephones

PA2602050890 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
0422 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Report by Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez]

[Text] This is an urgent last-minute report from Managua, Nicaragua. A few minutes ago the Sandinist regime cut all telephones of the National Opposition Union [UNO] campaign committee. We repeat: The Sandinist regime cut all telephones at the UNO campaign center here in Managua, which is precisely the place where information coming from the interior of the country was being received. This center was receiving information on the vote counting and the votes cast by Nicaraguans today, 25 February, in which the UNO clearly appears to be the winner.

We repeat: All UNO campaign committee telephones were disconnected a few minutes ago by the Sandinist regime. For example, one of the telephone lines disconnected was 62-1261, which was one of the telephones on which information was being received from the UNO party poll representatives in the interior of the country. When people dial this telephone number they hear a recording saying this telephone is out of service at this time. A few minutes ago, we ourselves contacted the personnel working (?at the campaign center) and they have confirmed this. We repeat: The Sandinist regime has disconnected or silenced the telephones at the UNO campaign center.

Electoral Council Members Meet With Carter

PA2602063690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0613 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 26 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter is meeting early this morning with the five members of the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), which is in charge of the 25 February Nicaraguan elections, a CSE source has reported.

Carter, who heads the group of observers from the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government, went to the vote-counting center six hours after the polls closed, when the CSE has yet to issue significant official figures and while the opposition is claiming victory.

So far, the CSE has only issued very partial results from four rural vote-counting boards, in which FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] candidate Daniel Ortega is shown to be leading.

Adviser Says UNO Count Predicts UNO Victory

PA2602051690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0444 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Alfredo Cesar, the main adviser of Nicaraguan opposition candidate Violeta Chamorro, said tonight that on the basis of figures obtained by the National Opposition Union (UNO), the coalition will win the 25 February elections.

According to those partial and unofficial figures, which cannot yet be released in Nicaragua, UNO will obtain 58 percent of the votes while the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) will get less than 40 percent of the votes.

Cesar said this count is based on "a little less than 100,000 votes," out of an electoral census of 1.7 million voters.

The Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) has so far only issued very partial results from four rural vote-counting boards, in which FSLN candidate Daniel Ortega is winning.

UNO Reports Lead; Government, CSE Silent

*PA2602054690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0506 GMT 26 Feb 90*

[Text] Managua, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan opposition insists on proclaiming itself the winner of the 25 February elections on the basis of figures obtained from its count. Meanwhile, the government and the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] remain silent five hours after the polls closed.

According to figures provided tonight by Arnaldo Aleman, Managua mayoral candidate for the National Opposition Union (UNO), of 38,845 votes counted, the opposition reportedly received 22,692 votes and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) 16,153 votes.

The CSE has so far issued only very partial results from four rural ballot-counting boards in which FSLN candidate Daniel Ortega is leading.

UNO Rejoices; FSLN Holds 'Emergency Meeting'

*PA2602080790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0745 GMT
26 Feb 90*

[Report by Arturo Gudino]

[Text] Managua, 26 Feb (AFP)—Even though the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) has not yet proclaimed the winner of the general elections held on 25 February, early this morning there is a party atmosphere at the National Opposition Union (UNO) campaign center, in contrast to the atmosphere of uncertainty prevailing at the headquarters of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The FSLN National Directorate, made up of the "nine commanders," is holding an emergency meeting at the Sandinist campaign center located on 19 July Plaza. Militants and supporters of the official candidate, President Daniel Ortega, are in the surrounding area, unable to hide their long and sad faces, as they converse, cry, and embrace each other.

Meanwhile, in the UNO center, just one km from the FSLN center, there is an atmosphere of festivity and dancing.

"This is an unprecedented event. With our votes we have defeated a regime that thought it would stay in power forever," said Socialist leader Luis Sanchez to a group of reporters.

UNO presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro, who is 60 years old and is known among her followers as "the liberty lady," was expected this dawn at UNO headquarters, where her campaign partner Virgilio Godoy has already arrived.

Sources close to the Sandinists said a few hours ago that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, one of the main observers of the Nicaraguan elections, met with several leaders of the Sandinist Directorate, but details of the meeting were not disclosed.

Meanwhile, capital city residents are in their homes waiting for results from the CSE, which has so far only revealed the results of four vote-counting boards that produced 98 votes for the FSLN and 40 for UNO.

At the FSLN's campaign headquarters, a musical group, which was hired to celebrate the "Sandinist victory," was playing joyfully, but sympathizers of the government party seemed shocked by unofficial news pointing to their defeat.

FSLN Commanders Still Meeting

*PA2602101590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0935 GMT 26 Feb 90*

[Text] Managua, 26 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Early this morning there are several hundred Sandinists in front of the campaign center of their party, defeated by the opposition in the Nicaraguan elections held yesterday. They are singing revolutionary songs and shouting "they will not pass," referring to the conservative opposition that won the elections.

Crowded in front of the campaign center where the nine Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) "commanders" are meeting, the followers of Daniel Ortega—accompanied by the singer and composer Carlos Mejia Godoy—are singing songs such as "Nicaragua, Nicaragua," and shouting "Long live Sandino," the inspiration of the revolutionary regime.

Ortega's wife, Rosario Murillo, who is among those standing in front of the campaign center, said: "My husband has won, because the people continue to be Sandinists."

Along with the FSLN militants and followers—many of whom are crying—there are many "internationalists" who come from foreign organizations in solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution.

Meanwhile, the government stations are only broadcasting music after having aired the two statements by the president of the Supreme Electoral Council, Mariano Fiallos, announcing the defeat of the FSLN and the

victory of the National Opposition Union (UNO) and its candidate, Violeta Chamorro.

Godoy Claims UNO Wins Elections

PA2602081190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0744 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 26 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The opposition's vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy said today that President Daniel Ortega "will have to accept his defeat," and reiterated that the National Opposition Union (UNO) has won yesterday's elections.

Godoy arrived at the UNO "campaign house" early this morning amid hundreds of joyful followers to grant a news conference.

The opposition's joy contrasts with the silence of the government, the Sandinist National Liberation Front, and the Supreme Electoral Council, which has not yet given any significant official results seven and one-half hours after the closing of the polls.

CSE Says UNO Ahead With 30 Percent Counted

PY2602102890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0915 GMT
26 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 26 Feb (EFE)—According to figures released early this morning by the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), the Nicaraguan opposition have won yesterday's elections after 30.6 percent of the votes had been counted.

According to figures released by CSE President Mariano Fiallos, the National Opposition Union (UNO) headed by Violeta Chamorro has obtained 54 percent of the votes and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) headed by Daniel Ortega obtained 42.5 percent.

Godoy: UNO 'Will Not Negotiate' With FSLN

PA2602102590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0950 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 26 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Virgilio Godoy, virtual vice president elect of Nicaragua, said today that the opposition "will not negotiate" with the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), in power since 1979 and defeated in the 25 February elections.

Godoy, candidate of the National Opposition Union (UNO), said the new government plans to achieve "the feat of giving freedom and well-being to the Nicaraguans who have demanded this for so many years."

The virtual vice president asked Nicaraguans "to remain calm, because we will keep our promises. We are now getting ready to plan what we will do after 25 April."

According to the electoral law, the new government takes office on that date.

According to figures issued by the Supreme Electoral Council early this morning on the basis of 30.6 percent of the vote count, UNO has won the elections.

Those figures, which were released by CSE President Mariano Fiallos, state that UNO, which is led by Violeta Chamorro, received 54 percent of the votes and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) of Daniel Ortega received 42.5 percent.

"I am calm and pleased because Nicaragua has shown it wanted a change," Godoy said in the UNO campaign headquarters.

Violeta Chamorro said she will hold a news conference early this morning at an unspecified time.

Chamorro delayed her arrival at UNO campaign headquarters because she had received former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, and Elliot Richardson, special envoy of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar—all key observers in certifying the honesty of the elections—at her home.

Godoy said those observers visited Chamorro to express their satisfaction "over the irreversible trend of the vote."

UNO Leads By 110,000 With 61 Percent Counted

PY2602125890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1223 GMT
26 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 26 Feb (EFE)—The Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) today reported that the Nicaraguan National Opposition Union (UNO) is leading the Sandinistas by more than 110,000 votes with 61 percent of the votes counted.

CSE President Mariano Fiallos announced that UNO has obtained 459,655 votes (54.8 percent) and the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front has 347,778 votes (41.5 percent).

Chamorro Hopes for 'Peaceful Transfer of Power'

PA2602110890 Managua Radio Corporacion
in Spanish 0940 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Speech by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, presidential candidate of the National Opposition Union, UNO, at UNO campaign headquarters in Managua—live]

[Text] Nicaraguans, after respecting the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] agreement of not making any predictions or any statements until the first official information on the results were made public, after learning of the first official results of over 30 percent of the voting polls in which the National Opposition Union now has a margin of 53.7 percent of the votes, I want to tell you Nicaraguan people [applause, cheers], I want to tell you, my Nicaraguan people, that:

1. I am completely sure that this UNO lead in the elections is irreversible [applause], and it will continue growing as the results from the other areas of the country become available.

2. This UNO margin is identical at all the voting centers. [applause]

3. As the CSE continues with the vote counting and the final results are learned, I urge my Nicaraguan people to remain calm and abstain from staging any victory demonstrations. I want to congratulate all Nicaraguans because today we have all won. [applause, cheers] We have given the world a magnificent example of civic education, showing that we Nicaraguans are a people who want to live in democracy, in peace, and, above all, who want to live in freedom. [applause, crowd chants: "Viva Dona Violeta!"]

We have all accomplished the first democratic election in the history of this country. I admit that I feel overjoyed at this very important moment for Nicaragua. [crowd chants: "Viva Dona Violeta!"] I want to confirm now that I will honor my commitment to work for national reconciliation because that is the only way we can achieve peace and economic development.

This is the first democratic election in our history that the opposition has won, and, God willing, there will be a peaceful transfer of power. [applause] This is an election that will never result in people going into exile, or political prisoners, or property confiscations. [applause]

There are no losers or winners here. [applause] Today, I hereby confirm my commitment to faithfully comply with the UNO government plan [applause], which is a plan for national salvation. [applause]

Since the day I agreed to be the UNO presidential candidate, I knew that in a free election, like the one we had today, the Nicaraguan people would vote to reinstate a democratic republic like the one my husband, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, dreamed about. [applause] I want to tell you that today we must congratulate each other with a fraternal embrace. Nicaragua will be a republic again. Thank you. [applause]

Virgilio Godoy Comments on Election, 'Rejoicing'

*PA2602114990 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
1041 GMT 26 Feb 90*

[Interview with Virgilio Godoy Reyes, vice presidential candidate of the National Opposition Union, in Managua by Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez—live]

[Text] [Mora Sanchez] Dr. Godoy, will you please say something for Radio Impacto?

[Godoy] What can I tell you? Do you know why the people are rejoicing? Because this is what the people have been looking forward to for such a long time. Now I feel I have a tremendous responsibility. Many times we

have said that we fought for freedom, justice, democracy, and peace. These are the great values that will guide our work. These are the great values that will make us keep our promises to the Nicaraguan people.

Naturally, we cannot do this alone. The Nicaraguan people will be the main promoters in achieving freedom, justice, democracy, and eventually peace. We trust this will be the case. We are sure that the struggle has not been in vain. This has been one achievement, but we will have many more ahead that will be much longer, greater, and much more important.

Nicaragua feels tremendously happy because the time is here to achieve what we have awaited for such a long time.

[Mora Sanchez] Dr. Godoy, thank you very much and congratulations.

FSLN Official on Results, Sandinist Mood

*PA2602111490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1001 GMT 26 Feb 90*

[Interview with Dionisio Marengo, head of the Agitation and Propaganda Department of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, by Norman Fornos at the FSLN Campaign House; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Fornos] Dionisio, what do you think about the first results released by the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]?

[Marengo] The results currently show that nearly 350,000 or 400,000 votes have been counted. It means that 1.3 million or 1.4 million votes remain to be counted. The figures have not favored the FSLN. That is well known, and it is part of the vote count done by the CSE. We do not dispute those figures. We must admit the results took us by surprise, but at no time can we accept that it is the signal of a defeat for the FSLN—first, because mathematically many more votes need to be counted, and second, and this is important for all activists to hear, the Sandinists never surrender. In any case, we will have to wait until the last vote is counted, which could mathematically give us the victory or the defeat.

Daniel Ortega will speak in a few hours to clear up all of these points and to better explain the positions of the FSLN. No one should worry. People should remain calm and listen to the results released by the CSE every hour or every half hour, because it has our support.

[Fornos] Dionisio, what is the mood of the FSLN at this time?

[Marengo] Well, I would be lying to you if we were laughing, but we have faced tougher situations. We are not going to die because of what has happened. We have always fought against the current and this is not the first or the last battle we will win.

[Fornos] Does the FSLN has any information as to where the election results are coming from?

[Marenco] We have information released by the CSE, which we have studied. The data we have coincides with the information we already had. We had better results in the north and we had worse results in the 5th Region. We did worse in the most conservative regions. The results of the vote count have surprised us. We really did not expect it, and we have to gather more information to be able to provide more serious reports on what may have happened. The worst we can do is be a prophet of the past. We cannot be saying: This or that should have happened. We assumed our responsibility seriously. I do not want to get ahead of myself. We want to cool off any tempers. Some may be sad, others angry, and still others confused. We should not feel that way. We must remain calm. A few hours remain before we learn the final results.

We have fought against UNO [National Opposition Union], the Yankees, the contras, and poverty. They all plotted against our party, but under no circumstances should we feel discouraged. History continues to be written.

[Fornos] Violeta Barrios has proclaimed herself the president of Nicaragua.

[Marenco] I believe she has gotten ahead of herself, but it is her right to be happy because the results favor them up to now. So far the results are favorable for them.

[Fornos] This is what politics is all about.

[Marenco] Of course, this is part of democracy. Nicaragua has given a huge lesson on democracy today.

[Fornos] Thank you very much.

Deputy Minister Tinoco Comments on Elections

PA2602113790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1016 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco by (Noemita Pornos) at the Sandinist National Liberation Front campaign headquarters in Managua—live]

[Text] [Pornos] What is your opinion of the initial election returns?

[Tinoco] The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] has announced results based on 30 percent of the votes. We must wait for the final result. I understand that President Ortega will speak at 0600 and we will get a better idea of the results then.

At any rate, I believe that the elections have reaffirmed that the Sandinist movement, that the patriotic movement for national independence, is a strong force with profound roots in this society, despite the economic problems.

[Pornos] It is already being claimed abroad that Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has been elected president of the Republic. This is especially true in Costa Rica. What is your opinion, deputy minister?

[Tinoco] I believe that we must wait for the definitive results that the CSE will announce. That is the serious attitude. The serious thing is to wait for the results. We are serious. We are a serious force in this country, and we represent an important segment of the population. We have rallied the people behind us in our struggle to achieve national independence, political progress, and social progress in the past 10 years.

I believe that we must wait for the definitive results. Despite the results, despite the elections, even when only 30 percent of the votes have been counted, we have reaffirmed that despite economic problems and the crisis we inherited from the war, the national patriotic independence movement that opposes submission to foreign forces is profoundly rooted among Nicaraguans.

[Pornos] How are the Sandinist militants?

[Tinoco] They are assessing the current situation. We will assess, in due time, the new situation generated by the elections, and we will move forward in the struggle to consolidate a sovereign and independent country and create a more just and equitable society.

Daniel Ortega Acknowledges Election Results

PA2602140590 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
1220 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...national and international. We are culminating an electoral process of historic importance for the Nicaraguan people. We have devoted to it all our efforts and full revolutionary conviction to succeed in making everything better in Nicaragua for all Nicaraguans.

The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] led the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship. It experienced bitter times of defeat while struggling against the Somoza dictatorship. It experienced painful moments when it lost brothers in combat. We, the Sandinist militants, who learned to forge ourselves into what we became during difficult times while facing adversity, conquered for Nicaragua the right to freedom, independence, democracy, and peace on 19 July 1979.

The FSLN and its revolutionary government also managed during the past 10 years—very difficult and cruel years for the Nicaraguan people—to lead in the defense of the people's interests; to lead in the defense of our homeland, national dignity, and sovereignty; to lead in the struggle for Nicaragua's self-determination. In the same way we succeeded in defeating Somozism during this struggle for peace, we managed to defeat the counterrevolution. We also managed to denounce before the

world those who promoted this policy of death against the Nicaraguan people and—in an action of historical importance for the people of the world—the International Court of Justice condemned the United States for its criminal actions against the Nicaraguan people and called upon the United States to stop these actions. It also called upon the United States to indemnify the Nicaraguan people. Many battles have been waged by our heroic, selfless, hard-working, self-sacrificing people. Abiding by the Nicaraguan people's hopes for peace and defending a revolutionary, multiparty program of our own, involving a mixed economy and nonalignment, we managed to preserve that model, even during the most difficult times, in the struggle against U.S. intervention and the internal polarization this struggle brought about.

We later sought the achievement of peace. We signed agreements with the Central American presidents, pledging to strengthen peace and democracy with social and economic development in all our countries. Seeking to achieve, once and for all, the peace that the Nicaraguan people have wanted so much and for which so much blood has been shed, we brought forward the elections that were scheduled, according to the law, for November 1990, and we held them in February 1990.

From the very moment that we defended this pluralist project, we accepted the challenge to test the people's will and vote in periodic elections that are duly ratified in the Constitution of the Republic. We participated in the 25 February 1990 elections fully convinced that the battle in the electoral sector had to decide, once and for all, the end of the war and bring some peace and tranquility to the Nicaraguan people.

The FSLN—as a political and historical force—and the patriotic and conscientious people of Nicaragua have countered in these elections the U.S. policy, the contras, the economic embargo, and the economic attrition provoked by the war. We certainly trusted the people and we were sure that, upon conclusion, this electoral process would give all the Nicaraguan people the peace and stability that we all need to rebuild the country, recover our economy, recover in the social sector, and seek to achieve a minimum of political stability.

As the FSLN candidate in these elections, I was convinced of victory and trusted in one. I was also convinced that as the FSLN leader and president of the Nicaraguan people, I was defending the revolutionary process rather than the interests of a political force that, in the elections, sought for the right to continue leading the people. In other words, I was defending a multiparty system, a mixed economy, and Nicaragua's right to independence and self-determination.

Never in the history of any independent nation have elections been held that were so closely watched as those held in Nicaragua. There are observers from the United Nations, the OAS, the Carter Center, Europe, Latin America, and other areas in the world, as well as hundreds of reporters, all of whom observed and covered

this electoral process, testing our political willingness, that of the Sandinist revolutionaries, who never clung to power. We were born poor and will be happy to die poor. In these elections, we did our best to carry out this project, one that has become a challenge for the intelligence, imagination, and creativity of peoples in a constant struggle for their liberation, independence, self-determination, and economic and social justice.

A few minutes ago we learned of the Supreme Electoral Council's [CSE's] preliminary vote count, according to which 447,831 votes, or 54.3 percent, went to the National Opposition Union [UNO], while 342,043 votes, or 41.5 percent, went to the FSLN out of a total of 824,576 valid votes. The rest of the votes were shared by other participating parties. So far, the CSE has accounted for little more than 60 percent of the polling stations. This is equivalent to 50 percent of the votes cast. That is, approximately 800,000 votes have yet to be counted. These numbers and percentages show a trend we cannot ignore. This trend may eventually change, thus undoing all mathematical estimates. I also feel that the surveys' patterns have been broken here, but, in the end, this shows a trend. The CSE said that at noon it will have the data on the other 50 percent of the votes. Following the appropriate revisions, we will have the official figures from the CSE with the results of these elections.

I want to say on my behalf and on behalf of my family, my comrades, and brothers of the FSLN; on behalf of my brother FSLN militants; and on behalf of the heroic, self-sacrificing, unselfish, courageous, and responsible people who participated in this electoral process and backed the FSLN, I want to express to the people of Nicaragua and people of the world that the president and Government of Nicaragua are going to respect and abide by the people's mandate as shown in the voting in these elections.

I feel that at this historic moment, this constitutes the chief contribution that Sandinists and Nicaraguan revolutionaries are making to the Nicaraguan people. That is, we are guaranteeing an electoral process that is clean and pure, that heartens our consciences even more, and that shines as the sun on this dawn of 26 February 1990 is shining down upon us. It shines toward the consolidation of democracy, toward the consolidation of a mixed economy, toward the consolidation of a free, independent, and democratic Nicaragua, in peace and without intervention by any foreign power, where all Nicaraguans will be able to show the world we can turn our dreams and hopes into reality.

The biggest victory that fills me with pride as president of the Nicaraguan people and as a Sandinist leader, and that should make all Sandinist militants proud, is that today, 26 February, we are setting a new path for Nicaragua, like the one we set on 19 July 1979.

Now a new road is being opened; war will end; the contras will disappear; and national interests will prevail

over interventionist policies. The Sandinists are fulfilling the pledge we made during our electoral campaign by giving Nicaragua democracy and peace, and by working for its stability and a better future.

Regardless of the final and official results that will be revealed by the CSE, we must feel proud that this battle was waged in a civil manner, no acts of violence occurred, and we are all willing to respect the electoral results of the voting process that brought thousands upon thousands of Nicaraguans to cast their ballots on 25 February and choose the political force that they want to rule Nicaragua, beginning on 25 April 1990.

Thank you, Nicaraguan brothers. Thank you, brother activists of the FSLN. Thank you, brother fighters of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and the Interior Ministry, who guaranteed these elections with their blood and defended the Nicaraguan people's right to vote. We thank the blood of our heroes and martyrs. We thank the Nicaraguan mothers' sorrow, which was full of hope. Thank you all, Nicaraguan brothers.

I invite you today, more than ever, to act with firmness, conviction, and security, because the steps we have taken have been correct. We have fulfilled our pledges and our proposals. After all, we have made many sacrifices and worked hard throughout all these years.

Once more, we Sandinists have emerged victorious. Once more, we Sandinists have emerged as winners because we managed to turn our words into deeds despite all attempts against this electoral victory; despite the climate of distrust that some tried to create; and even against the systematic activities of the counterrevolutionary forces, which murdered people during the election campaign.

We emerged victorious because we Sandinists, who have endured sacrifice and shed blood and sweat, and did not cling to our posts or positions, have brought to Nicaragua what had been denied to it since 1821, when it became an independent nation. Ironically, independence had been denied to Nicaragua. It was achieved by Nicaraguans with Sandino and the Sandinist combatants on 19 July 1979. Democracy had been denied to Nicaragua. It had been denied economic and social development. The right to speak and to organize had been denied to Nicaraguans. The peasants had been denied the right to have land. The poor had been denied the right to hope for a better life.

All this, which had been denied to the people, was achieved by the FSLN through its victory on 19 July 1979. It laid the groundwork for developing an independent, worthy, and sovereign Nicaragua with economic and social development and political democracy.

Today, 25 February [date as heard], we Sandinists have demonstrated our consistency with our principles. On this 25 February, we have demonstrated our consistency with what we say. In other words, we are words and actions. We talk and act. We are proud despite the

official results that will be released later by the Supreme Electoral Council. We are proud to be making a contribution to Nicaragua, to the people of Central America, to the people of Latin America and the Caribbean, and to the developing nations. We are making a contribution to this unfair world, which is divided into the weak and powerful. We are contributing a little dignity, a little democracy, and a little social justice from this small territory in Central America, which gave birth to men who made Nicaragua famous, like Dario [poet Ruben Dario] and Sandino.

Thank you, Nicaraguan brothers, and onward. Onward with our voice and our battle cry, which is the cry of Sandino: Free fatherland or death. [applause]

Arias, Perez, Menem Call; Congratulate Chamorro

PA2602165390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1615 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 26 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The presidents of Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Argentina called early this morning to congratulate Violeta Chamorro on her electoral victory, following the 25 February elections in Nicaragua, which were absent irregularities.

The first to call was Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

The Costa Rican president gave statements to LA PRENSA, which opposes Sandinism, and said: "I feel very happy and proud of having changed weapons for ballot boxes, and of allowing Nicaragua to embark on the road where negotiation, not force, will settle our conflicts."

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez congratulated Violeta and sent greetings to the Nicaraguan people, who participated "in a great civic act."

Likewise, Argentine President Carlos Menem said that he applauded the Nicaraguan opposition's victory.

The Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) has tallied 824,566 votes so far, which represents 50 percent of the votes; and the National Opposition Union (UNO) has 54.3 percent of the votes, whereas the Sandinists have 41.5 percent of the votes.

More definite official information on yesterday's electoral process will be issued around noon today.

Soviets Promise To Respect 'Just' Elections

PA2602095290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0925 GMT
26 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow, 26 Feb (EFE)—The USSR will respect the results of the Nicaraguan elections if the thousands of international observers who are in Nicaragua establish that the elections were free and just, a spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry announced today.

This is a position in principle, Kiril Kasatkin, official of the Foreign Ministry Information Office, told EFE.

If the elections were free and just, the USSR will respect the results, whatever they may be, Kasatkin added.

The USSR and the United States promised to respect the results of the Nicaraguan elections in the joint declaration the two countries signed during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Moscow 7-10 February.

Kasatkin said that, at any rate, the USSR will not have an official reaction to the election results until they are officially announced.

Arturo Cruz Returns Under Amnesty Program 23 Feb
PA2402235890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Dr. Arturo Cruz, who was a member of the former contra directorate and a candidate in the 1984 elections but who withdrew by order of Washington, arrived in the country yesterday under the amnesty program. After signing his amnesty document, Cruz described the elections as a very important development.

Cruz added that he will later advocate a national reconciliation in which the opposition will play the role of overseer from the National Assembly. Arturo Cruz said that he is currently not involved in politics and spends time lecturing at a U.S. university. He believes that the country now offers political opportunities as a result of the reconciliation promoted by the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Comments on Elections

PA2502031090 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish
24 Feb 90 p 16

[Text] Former counterrevolutionary director Dr. Arturo Cruz, after his arrival in the country yesterday and after accepting the amnesty offer, expressed the opinion that the presidential elections are nothing more than a step in a far larger process toward reconstruction and even better days.

Cruz, who withdrew from the contra board three years ago, is unable to vote because he was unable to register. He said he wants to see the elections, which he described as a very important act "that will mean, and already means, good things for the country."

Mr. Cruz, in signing the document accepting the amnesty, pointed out that right now he has no political links and spends his time lecturing at a U.S. university. Cruz regretted not having been able to register in October, but he said that, nevertheless, he did not want to miss out on this civic act.

"I am here as a Nicaraguan who wants to see this important event," he said, while recognizing that the release from prison of 1,190 former Somizists and contras was a generous act and part of the process.

"I believe that there is a political opening and that the hard and radical rhetoric at the start of the revolution is

becoming more pragmatic. I believe all this is good," the short-lived contra director said, adding that as a citizen he calls on the opposition to contribute to the national reconstruction if the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] wins the elections.

Dr. Cruz said that what is important is not the election itself, but what follows, which he termed "a process of national reconciliation, in which, if President Ortega is reelected, the opposition will play the role of censor from Congress."

Cruz explained that the opposition should work to get the U.S. economic embargo lifted, adding that he was never in agreement with it. He expressed the opinion that if the FSLN wins, the opposition parties are going to take the position of not backing any armed act.

He said the latest U.S. public opinion polls show FSLN candidate Daniel Ortega ahead. He recalled that Elliot Richardson, personal representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, had said that the Nicaraguan electoral process' infrastructure offers guarantees.

Borge Interviewed on FSLN, East Europe Changes

PA2402040890 Managua LA CRONICA in Spanish
23-28 Feb pp 4,5,6

[Interview with Interior Minister Tomas Borge by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] [LA CRONICA] Ideologically speaking, are there any differences between the present FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and the one you organized with Carlos Fonseca? If so, what are they?

[Borge] We were marked ideologically by the trends of the times. In addition, we have developed our own ideas without forsaking our revolutionary principles. We have adapted to the current times. In fact, we have even been steps ahead of the changes that are now taking place around the world and the reinterpretations of revolutionary concepts, including Marxism.

Our deep understanding of our own national identity—that is, our Sandinist identity—was essential to this ideological development. When we began our struggle, Carlos Fonseca used to say that we were revolutionaries more out of shame than out of conscience. We had some knowledge of revolutionary theory and we looked to far off examples, as well as to the nearby example of the Cuban revolution when we took up weapons in Rio Coco and Bocay. At that time, some of our comrades leaned toward Mao Zedong's ideas, but no Maoist current developed among us.

The study of Marxism that Carlos conducted allowed us to develop a view of universal Marxism and Sandino's Marxism. The combination of the national and universal theories was responsible for our roots and our specific characteristics. We did not adopt the rebel band idea

that predominated in Latin America at the time. This was a mechanistic and adventuresome interpretation of the Cuban experience.

We have always had a perfect understanding of the essence of imperialism, and we continue to be anti-imperialists even today. As we developed, our principles began expanding too, and our knowledge of reality grew.

This process advanced to the point where we formulated our historical program, which continues to be a beacon and a compass even though it has been adjusted to the new conditions around the world and in Nicaragua. However, this program kept us from getting lost and straying toward selfish paths. It allowed us to quickly get rid of any straitjackets. Sandinism is Marxism applied to Nicaragua's reality.

[LA CRONICA] Have the 10 years in power eroded the mystique of the Sandinist followers?

[Borge] I think the revolutionary mystique is like the beginning of a love that becomes adjusted to ordinary life with time. It is a honeymoon that one needs to remember frequently.

We Sandinists have made extraordinary displays of mystique. I remember the time Carlos Fonseca and I were at Teodorita Rubi's house. We ate beans in the morning, had bean soup for lunch, and beans again for dinner—even though we had money to buy meat. It was forbidden to look at a woman's legs at that time. All those demonstrations of mystique were necessary at the moment. It seems to me that that the mystique of the initial years has been maintained. A large number of active FSLN members are government employees who receive meager salaries and who live in poverty the way we, the FSLN's founders, lived during the initial stage. Those men firmly remain in their jobs, even though they get offers from other states to move to other positions with much higher salaries. They continue to serve where they feel their duty demands it. These are the extraordinary displays of mystique. If we had not had mystique, we would not have had policemen. These men do their work only because they are motivated by this mystique. They earn less than a manual female worker does, yet you see the police serving.

However, mystique demands renewal because mystique demands austerity. It demands that we identify with the people's hardships. There has to be a shorter distance between revolutionary leaders and the grass roots. It seems to me that we will have to struggle for this during this new term and I think there is awareness of this at the National Directorate.

[LA CRONICA] Will the partisan life of the FSLN be institutionalized; that is, will it make its statutes public, hold congresses, or elect its leadership organs?

[Borge] The structures are well defined for now. An organization charter places the National Directorate at

the top, then comes the Sandinist Assembly, the intermediate level directors, and finally the base committees. We have an internal order that is linked to our militants' political life. As a political institution we are organized; our partisan life is regulated.

Our internal structures do not follow the pattern of parties from those countries that in some way inspired the revolutionary processes. However, we inherited a few remnants from those parties, such as murals. Murals were used when PRAVDA had a very poor circulation. From the Soviet Union they went to Cuba, and from Cuba they came to Nicaragua. I have greatly opposed those murals.

When this electoral whirlwind subsides we can think of a congress, although that is not easy at all. However, it is necessary to seriously review some structures and make some decisions that will increase the FSLN's internal democratization. As a matter of fact, that democratization began to be visualized when we had the election of Sandinist candidates for deputies and councilmen. There was no difficulty in selecting the presidential ticket. However, the names of many candidates for deputies and councilmen were questioned, and we had to make many changes.

I think that changes are looming ahead. They will not be dramatic changes, but rather a reshuffling process and a growing democratization within the FSLN.

[LA CRONICA] Was there a vote to decide the Sandinist presidential ticket?

[Borge] Yes, of course.

[LA CRONICA] How was the vote?

[Borge] Unanimous.

[LA CRONICA] Many sectors at home and abroad attribute to Borge the status of leader of the "hardest and most radical" current within the FSLN. Do you recognize yourself in that description?

[Borge] Unfortunately, those "analysts" tend to understand our stances and decisions through the disharmonic strings of schemes, and when things do not turn out as expected they begin to devise justifications. That is the origin of all those myths, according to which either a hard current or a flexible current prevailed, or any other similar assessment.

The truth is that I am not going to describe the FSLN's internal characteristics, not even in self-defense. I will not commit the indiscretion of identifying the radicals. If I did, that will surely cause big surprises. However, I will say that some of us are at times flexible and at times radical, but the truth is that the political decisions made by the National Directorate are subject to long discussions. We debate them until we are sufficiently persuaded.

All of us go to the meetings with an open mind, ready to change our views if the arguments of the other comrades are convincing. Once Bayardo Arce said: "I have a problem and it is that all of you," he was excluding himself, but I include him, "are intelligent, and then the arguments one gives me convince me and the arguments another gives me also convince me, though they may be contradictory."

In fact, we totally overcame the internal currents. Great unity prevails, and even brotherhood and mutual solidarity have developed. This does not mean that we may not often have different points of view regarding some issue, yet that is healthy. If all of us thought the same way, it would be the most boring thing in the world. Our experience is radically different from the experience of some East European countries, where the opinion of the secretary general always prevailed. The members of the Politburo limited themselves to repeating what the secretary general said. We do not have a secretary general, although there may have to be one some day. Yet, our attitude is to have an open mind, to hold discussions, and to debate among ourselves.

As far as I am concerned, many persons have voiced their surprise when they know me, precisely because of my reputation of being hard.

[LA CRONICA] Who is your alternate at the National Directorate?

[Borge] Before the triumph of the revolution we had a system of alternates, but that no longer exists, although I think it should.

Although he does not formally hold that post, National Directorate Secretary Rene Nunez Tellez is a kind of alternate.

[LA CRONICA] What do you think about the changes in East Europe?

[Borge] That is a sum that became the product of multiplication at a particular time. Beams were heaped in the eyes over the years and finally obscured the vision. A wrong view of democracy finally led to political paralysis. The secretary general made the decisions and the others obeyed. This was called democratic centralism. Bureaucratic structures were created that spoke in the leaders' ears only, not to report on what was going on, but to sweeten the pill. As a result, those leaders did not have the least contact with the people.

This form of political life affected the cultural development of those countries. In Czechoslovakia, I met with the top leaders of the Association of Intellectuals, to whom Kafka was unfamiliar and who could not recognize his influence on a particular painting. At most, they reached the so-called socialist realism, which was nothing more than a caricature of art. This resulted in an exodus of intellectuals and artists from East Europe.

This also produced arrogance and haughtiness in many leaders. One of these cases is that of Boris Yeltsin who,

when he visited Managua, invited me to see him when I could visit Moscow. This I did, accompanied by the Nicaraguan Ambassador to Moscow. I tried to explain our current situation to him, but he interrupted me saying I should not speak about this to him because he already knew everything about it. He told me this with such incredible arrogance and personal pride that I was compelled to suspend the interview and leave a gift on his table that I had prepared for him. Upon leaving his office, I told my companeros that I had just talked with a future dissident. I am sure it is impossible for all those who despise other human beings to become revolutionaries. That is Yeltsin's reality. He has revealed he is a populist, a demagogue, and a corrupt person. He has now wound up proposing a return to capitalism.

[LA CRONICA] Can Tomas Borge be imagined as minister of the interior in a government other than one presided over by Daniel Ortega?

[Borge] What is unimaginable is a government not presided by Daniel Ortega. I cannot conceive of that. The National Directorate might assign me some other functions. I am not making any predictions, mind you. At present, however, I do not anticipate this possibility of other functions being assigned to me. If a new government appears, it will have to appoint its cabinet. If a different minister of the interior is appointed, the current ministry officials would have to be removed because surely they would not obey the new minister, unless the appointed minister is Humberto Ortega, Luis Carrion, or William Ramirez. These men might be accepted to a certain extent, but if, for instance, Jose Ernesto Somarriba is designated, I am sure the combatants of the Interior Ministry would hardly look at him. It would be necessary to remove all of the people at the Interior Ministry. If they win, an entirely inconceivable hypothesis, they would not want to appoint me minister of the interior, either.

[LA CRONICA] Do you aspire to be a presidential candidate in 1996?

[Borge] The truth is that I would not like to be president, but the National Directorate has the final word and determines who will be the presidential candidate. Such a responsibility disagrees with my inclinations. I prefer to write, but I will always be willing to obey my party's decisions with discipline.

Many are saying that I aspire to be president. I want to tell you this is not true. I am very happy not to be president. I do not envy Daniel because, after all, his responsibility during these 10 years has been very serious. In fact, Daniel will become the mouthpiece for the revolutionary leadership's decisions and the enforcer of the FSLN's policies and programs. Anyway, the Nicaraguan presidency is a responsibility to which I do not aspire.

[LA CRONICA] What are the Sandinists' current relations with Cuba?

[Borge] I had a long talk with Fidel Castro a few days ago; our relations are excellent. My talk with him had nothing to do with the alleged differences that prevail between Cuba and Nicaragua. Fidel was very affectionate and he wished us luck in the electoral process. He believes the FSLN victory will be an important world event.

Aside from my talk with him, I can assure you that Cuban-Nicaraguan relations remain intact. Relations between Fidel Castro and the leaders of this revolution are absolutely friendly. I see no possibility for a deterioration in these relations. Quite the contrary, I think they tend to become stronger everyday.

[LA CRONICA] How do you imagine Nicaragua's political future over the next six years?

[Borge] Full of problems. I am not a pessimist, even though changes have occurred in the East European countries that were most in solidarity with us, such as the GDR. By the way, I want to tell you that regardless of what the Germans think, Honecker was in solidarity with us and very generous toward our process. This has changed. Even the agreements that we had between the Interior Ministry and the GDR Interior Ministry were unilaterally broken by the Germans. Thus, the aid we received from those countries will not be sent. Nevertheless, I believe that relations with the Soviet Union will remain as they are; the current problems are transitory in nature. West Europe's economic cooperation might become accessible to Nicaragua.

However, regardless of that cooperation, we have to dedicate most of our time to the economy, to exploiting our own resources. In sum, I am an optimist about Nicaragua's future, and, even though there will be risks and problems, I believe we will be able to solve them. The solution to our problems will also depend on the consultation we achieve among ourselves, the Nicaraguans. I am not talking about political pacts, I am talking about a better coexistence among all Nicaraguans. The end of the war will allow the use of more resources in the production sector, rather than in the defense sector.

[LA CRONICA] Were you officially notified of the rupture in agreements with the GDR?

[Borge] Yes, we were officially notified.

[LA CRONICA] When were you notified?

[Borge] Quite recently.

[LA CRONICA] What is your prediction on the electoral results, in percentages?

[Borge] It is difficult to say, but I believe that we will not get less than 55 percent and no more than 65 percent.

[LA CRONICA] What percentage do you predict for the parties outside of UNO?

[Borge] I do not think they stand any chance.

[LA CRONICA] What has been the FSLN's greatest mistake during the 10 years in government and what has been its greatest achievement?

[Borge] The greatest achievement was to wage the revolution and achieve Nicaragua's real independence. Even though it has been said that we are a satellite of the Soviet Union and Cuba, the truth is that we have our own views—which sometimes do not coincide with those of our friends, and very seldom with those of our enemies. That is the main achievement: We rescued our national sovereignty, which is—in the last resort—the basis for economic development.

I believe that the worst mistake was to try to artificially raise the people's living conditions. During the first years we used the resources we received to subsidize transportation, health, and other services, but it was all artificial. If we had not used those resources for subsidies and had instead used them for short-term projects, we would have a better economic situation. I believe that this was our main mistake.

Government Receives USSR, Spanish Donations

PA2302171290 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
20 Feb 90 p 9

[Text] San Juan del Sur, Rivas, Region 6—Vasaly Voienov, USSR commercial attache in Nicaragua, yesterday delivered a valuable donation—20,000 metric tons of rice—to the government and the people of Nicaragua. The donation was received by Commander William Ramirez, FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] candidate for the post of deputy and general manager of the Nicaraguan Enterprise for Staple Foods (ENABAS).

The Soviet Government's donation is part of the solidarity aid that this friendly nation gives to the people of Nicaragua, the total cost of which is \$30 million.

During the delivery ceremony, the USSR commercial attache said: "This year the Soviet Government will donate more than 25,000 tons of rice, an equal amount of wheat, 1,000 tons of flour, lard, and canned meat and fish, among other food products."

Deputy candidate Commander William Ramirez received the donation and said: "The Soviet people's solidarity ratifies the ties of friendship between the USSR and Nicaragua. We thank you on behalf of our government for this new gesture of solidarity and friendship toward the Nicaraguan people from the Soviet Government and people, who know the difficult situation prevailing in our nation."

The rice donation alone has an approximate cost of \$6.6 million, and it is part of the food aid consisting of 25,000 tons of wheat and rice that the USSR annually donates to Nicaragua.

The Spanish ambassador also delivered a donation of 800 metric tons of beans, which were received by Commander William Ramirez at the ENABAS yesterday.

The 800 metric tons of beans represent 1,600 quintals, and they are part of the three metric tons that Spain has donated to Nicaragua for the AFA [rice, beans, and sugar] packages over seven months.

Argentina**Angeloz Decides Not To Join Government****Informs Menem**

*PY2302114290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0008 GMT 23 Feb 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (TELAM)—Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz today informed President Carlos Menem of his decision not to join the government. He suggested that Menem call for an accord of political parties and corporate organizations, a plebiscite on the state reorganization, and a social truce with businessmen and workers.

Angeloz' answer was delivered to Government House this afternoon by his private secretary Hector Palmero. This information was released by sources close to Angeloz who outlined the content of the letter without disclosing the text.

The spokesmen told TELAM that "the seriousness of the moment has forced Angeloz to avoid another useless, frustrating situation" and that he seeks "to expedite the solution, which is currently being delayed."

Angeloz believes that this situation will be solved if he summons the political parties and corporate organizations which, he believes, will help "to design the profile of a country, the construction of which will overcome [words indistinct]."

The sources said that the radical leader in his letter stated that "the responsibility of this task rests mainly on the political parties and the corporate organizations, whose interests are also the main obstacles to its success. For this reason he insists that they be summoned urgently."

The spokesmen added that Angeloz stresses the need for "the political parties and the corporate organizations to stop blaming the government for its carelessness as if it were the only one responsible for solving the nation's problems, especially its economic problems."

Moreover, the governor stressed that the "accord should not be a mere description of principles nor a vague statement, but that a precise proposal is necessary to combat the three or four great problems or tasks in which the Argentine crisis is summarized and whose solution will lead to the identification and debate of broader, more ambitious, but equally important problems."

The sources said that Angeloz "insists on two addition points: a social truce to create the necessary climate of discipline, and the need to summon the people" to a plebiscite "in which the citizenry will say what sort of country the Argentine people want, and in which they will also be consulted about the privatization policy and the state reorganization."

Angeloz' answer was drawn up in Buenos Aires by Conrado Storani, Ricardo Yofre, and Alfredo Orgaz.

During the past few days they have made several trips to Cordoba to draft the letter with Angeloz.

President Carlos Menem said that this morning he was awaiting "the contributions that Angeloz could make to help solve this crisis" since, he said, the governor had told him that he would "opportunistically" let him know "some of his ideas on subjects that we have discussed."

Angeloz' answer ends a period of expectation that started on 14 February when he met with President Carlos Menem.

After that meeting, the governor issued a communique stating that they had discussed proposals designed to "reach an essential and much-desired political action that would allow national unity, economic growth, and social peace." Then, while sectors of the media speculated on the possibility of Angeloz joining the government as minister coordinator, Menem said that he fully upheld the text of that first communique.

Finally, yesterday, as government authorities were minimizing rumors on the subject, former President Raul Alfonsin of the Radical Civic Union, from abroad said that if the governor of Cordoba believed that joining the government would be beneficial for the country, he was authorized to do so. Alfonsin reiterated, however, that his party advocated an agreement among political sectors.

Government Spokesman on Answer

*PY2302180090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0947 GMT 23 Feb 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM)—The government feels that for the first time "Eduardo Angeloz has presented very clear ideas on the need to call all political parties on the one hand and the productive sectors on the other hand, to make up an overall economic plan. This would be the beginning of an understanding which for the first time has become very explicit."

This was revealed early this morning by presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo, who reported that the meeting chaired by Carlos Menem ended a few minutes earlier and that the answer given by the Cordoba governor to an invitation by the president to participate and cooperate with the National Government was discussed during that meeting.

Toledo stated that "Angeloz' letter and the ideas he included are conditions which somehow coincide with the political system being implemented by the government."

Toledo added that in his letter to Menem, Angeloz pointed out two conditions: "One is to call upon the political parties and the productive sectors, and then, based on this call, to outline an overall political plan for Argentina."

The presidential spokesman made the point of saying that "this would open a path of understanding with the government which has implemented the idea of achieving a political and a social pact."

A few minutes before midnight last night, the president left the presidential palace. He greeted reporters accredited to Government House, saying: "Early tomorrow morning I will have coffee with you."

President Menem had previously met with Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa, Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez, Health and Social Action Minister Eduardo Bauza, and Public Works and Services Minister Roberto Dromi, and with Senator Eduardo Menem and Deputy Jose Luis Manzano.

Menem on Angeloz Letter

PY2302210090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1500 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The talks between President Menem and Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz were the main subject of a 25-minute conversation between the president and journalists accredited to Government House. We will summarize the situation.

Menem maintained that the answer Angeloz sent to him yesterday was an effort to protect the interests of his own party rather than a consideration of the cooperation that could be extended by the Cordoba governor.

The president added that Angeloz' letter mentions an accord between parties and a referendum to design a plan of government, disregarding the fact that such a plan is already being implemented. We have the most important remarks by President Menem, who said the following in connection with Angeloz' proposal:

[Begin Menem recording] The point is that I did not call on him as a savior—as he himself realized. There are no saviors here; there are men who work and who are willing to join efforts, as I said before, to pull the country out of this situation.

Dr. Angeloz mentioned an accord between parties and a sort of referendum to design a plan of government. There already is a clear plan of government though, and the only thing that we need is for Argentines, particularly those of us who are responsible for guiding the country at the national and provincial levels, to join efforts and share responsibilities. [end recording]

Menem said that he summoned Angeloz and that the Cordoba governor needs the support of his party to give a positive answer to that call.

[Begin Menem recording] I called on Angeloz as a leader. I do not exclude anyone from this call. Parties have been called from the beginning. It was necessary to summon Angeloz, just as I summoned other men who rely upon the leadership of Dr. Angeloz, to join the economic team. They said that they needed the approval of their party. That is a matter of opinion. I believe, however—and I take full responsibility for what I am saying—that when the country is at stake, the country and the leaders who enjoy the people's support should come first. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Menem Sees Uruguay's Lacalle, Mentions Angeloz

PY2402161890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 2131 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (NA)—President Carlos Menem today regretted Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz' refusal to accept an offer to join the cabinet saying: "Some political leaders are too tied to their party structures."

The president said: "The time has come to make our own decisions regarding the essential interests of the country."

Menem said: "The country's interests must be well above party interests," adding that the government will continue to call on leaders of opposition parties.

Menem made these remarks during a news conference in the Situation Room of Government House, in the company of Uruguayan President-elect Luis Lacalle Herrera.

The two leaders expressed their political will to continue encouraging their two countries' bilateral integration through concrete projects.

Coming back to the issue of Angeloz, whom he called his friend, Menem said: "We will continue to hammer at the issue" adding that "beyond these inconveniences and the situation we are going through, Argentina has a great future."

"We are working through a very painful present seeking a future full of accomplishments," the president said.

Menem stressed that our country "is leaving failure and stagnation behind," adding that the government will accept the opinions of all sectors of society.

"We are planning a series of meetings with labor and industry federations, and of course with political parties, for next week. We will try to advance in our discussion on the crisis that has been affecting Argentina for several months."

Menem said foreign alarmist reports about Argentina and the social situation in the country are "too much, and a lack of appreciation of the country."

"I expect you to truthfully report that we did not impose any state of siege in Argentina," Menem said, addressing foreign correspondents.

"The only thing you need to add is that blood is being spilled," the president said, adding that the reports "are intentionally malicious because the situation is totally under control."

"The Army is not patrolling the streets, nothing like that. The job is being done by police forces in accordance with the law, acting just as any other police force in the world," the president stressed.

Uruguayan President-elect Luis Lacalle said that during his meeting with Menem the two leaders spoke about their bilateral relations and the consequences of integration.

The two leaders also analyzed concrete issues like "the gas pipeline, a very important project involving four nations" (Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Brazil). Lacalle announced he had come to invite President Menem to his inauguration, adding that Uruguay's main program involves "the reduction of the fiscal deficit." Lacalle said he will seek an agreement with the Colorado Party to get the fiscal adjustment law approved.

Menem, Lacalle Issue Communique

PY2402120890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2246 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Uruguayan President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle today released a joint press communique expressing "the political will to give a new impulse to bilateral integration through concrete projects."

They noted "the importance of the tripartite integration process between Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, and the fundamental contribution of these initiatives to regional and Latin American integration."

At the end of their talk, held at noon today in Government House, Menem and Lacalle pointed out that "ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] plays a significant role in this process, and that it must be revitalized so it can be more effective and operational."

They stressed "the importance of the Parana-Paraguay waterway," and therefore support "the prompt execution of projects that will improve its operation."

They agreed on the need "to speed up construction of the Buenos Aires-Colonia bridge, since this project, which is a link in further regional development, should go hand in hand with effective measures for economic and commercial integration between the two countries."

They reaffirmed "the need to expand cooperation regarding port services for mutual benefit." To this effect, "the Argentine Government will study the possible use of the port of Montevideo for the movement of cargo."

Menem and Lacalle agreed "to examine the functional structure and the legal regulation of the Salto Grande Joint Technical Commission, in order to implement, in the shortest possible time, measures to streamline its functions and improve its operation."

They agreed that "studies and projects necessary for Argentina to supply natural gas to Uruguay should be completed as soon as possible." They also agreed that a meeting with the president of Paraguay should be arranged to evaluate the building of a canal to control the Parana River and to increase the flow of the Uruguay River in order to boost electricity production at Salto Grande."

They also agreed "to accelerate the demarcation of San Martin and Timoteo Dominguez Islands, and to seek a satisfactory solution for both countries regarding access

to Martin Garcia Island and its alluvial additions, in accordance to Article 46 of the Treaty of the River Plate and its Maritime Front."

Regarding commerce, they agreed "to undertake immediate actions to overcome difficulties in the agreement for complementary economic activity in order to increase bilateral trade, and to examine possibilities for new forms of economic integration."

They stressed the importance of the Treaty of the River Plate and its Maritime Front, and the creation of a common fishing zone, as a practical example of the integration that is in the interest of both countries to expand.

Presidential Spokesman: No Cabinet Resignation

PY2302220490 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
2108 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (DYN)—Government sources said today that the entire Cabinet reportedly submitted its resignation at the request of President Carlos Menem and that a reorganization would be completed in the next 48 hours. The sources added that the request was made by Vice President Eduardo Duhalde at the "expressed request of the president."

The sources also reported that new economic "corrective" measures may be announced in the next few hours and that the measures "are not basic changes." The sources explained that "the measures by no means represent any change in the economic policies because they are corrective measures only."

They also added that several sectors are sending proposals to the government to signal their cooperation in overcoming the current serious situation.

[Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 2150 GMT on 23 February carries a Buenos Aires-dated report that states:

"Presidential Spokesman Humberto Toledo has categorically denied that Argentina's cabinet ministers had submitted their resignations to President Carlos Menem, as has been reported by a high-ranking congressional source.

"'I categorically deny this report,' Toledo said. He added that the dissemination of these rumors is directed only at disturbing the people at an especially sensitive time for the nation.'"]

Caceres Comments on Crisis, Chilean Deployment

PY2402155490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2255 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 23 Feb (TELAM)—Division General Isidro Bonifacio Caceres, Army chief of staff, today said the national situation "is worrisome, we know we have to struggle a lot to overcome this crisis, but if the Argentine people remain calm and tolerant, if we help each other, leaving aside sectarian interests, we will be able to overcome this crisis together."

When asked about the economic situation, Caceres said: "How can I not be worried if I am also a victim of it," and regarding a possible state of siege, he said he could not talk about it because "as you can see, I am totally dedicated to my professional work."

Gen. Caceres said he received no orders from the president of the Republic regarding possible Army intervention if internal disorders arise, but he added that he will obey whatever the commander in chief orders, if the case arrives.

Caceres made these statements to the media during a visit to the 5th Army Corps in this city.

As for the alleged Chilean military deployments in the south, Gen. Caceres said: "I do not believe it, although we will gladly take the pertinent information. Our relations with Chile are very good and we must always seek integration between brothers and not a confrontation."

This morning Gen. Caceres met with Brigade General Raul Julio Gomez Sabaini, commander of the 5th Army Corps, Brigade General Jorge Halperin, deputy commander of the same corps, the brigade commanders, and the chief of the 601 Air Defense Group.

General Staff Denies Plan To Repress Unrest

PY2302133890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 2220 GMT 22 Feb 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (NA)—The Army General Staff has categorically denied the legitimacy of the secret intelligence document that was released today. The document reportedly established responsibilities and the course of action to be adopted in the case of a social breakdown.

In its press communique, the Army asserted: "Following the media report on the existence of an alleged plan for intelligence activities, we categorically deny the legitimacy of said document and point out that it does not contain the identification codes, the headlines, and the numbers that exist in all official military documents."

The report on the document was published today on page 12 of the morning paper EL MATUTINO. The paper attributed the document to General Carlos Schilling, chief of the Second Command (Intelligence) of the Army General Staff (EMGE). The report stated that the document had been distributed to all Army units.

The document, the existence of which was denied, identifies the "agitators" who caused the social breakdown, charging the Marxist Left, the Radical Coordinating Board, the dissident sectors of the Renewed Peronism, and the "Civilian-Military Right," with being the "opposing enemy."

The report insisted on the existence of a campaign against the Army, proposed a series of psychological action measures, described counter-intelligence measures to neutralize them, outlined several areas of possible internal conflict,

and contained orders for intelligence actions and data collection. It gave special emphasis to the role of the media and its links with several of the aforementioned sectors."

Two Bomb Attacks in Buenos Aires, No Victims

PY2302145490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1048 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (NA)—Two moderately powerful bombs exploded in different districts of Buenos Aires early this morning, causing damage but no victims.

One bomb was planted at the gate of the Tres Cruces Meat Packing Company on the corner of [name indistinct] and Chivilcoy Streets, in Villa Devoto District.

The other bomb exploded at 0300 this morning at the door of the Lomas de Zamora office of the Citibank on the corner of Hipolito Yrigoyen and Gorriti Streets in Lomas de Zamora District. The explosion broke windows and the facade of several adjoining buildings.

The bomb placed at the meat-packing company exploded at 0410, breaking several shop windows and damaging the facade of the building. It broke every window in a furniture store across the street from the meat-packing company.

The neighbors of the two targeted buildings were extremely worried about the explosions. The provincial and federal police are investigating the attacks to see if there is any connection between them.

Buenos Aires Judge Martin Irurzun is [passage indistinct].

Che Guevara Brigade Claims Attacks

PY2302170490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1350 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (NA)—The self-styled "Che Guevara" brigade, which a few months ago distributed food among La Matanza District slums, today claimed responsibility for two bomb attacks on a Citibank branch in Lomas de Zamora and the Tres Cruces Meat Packing Company in this capital.

In a communique for this news agency that was left in a telephone booth, the alleged brigade states it "attacked the Citibank branch in Lomas de Zamora and the Tres Cruces Meat-Packing Company (Bunge and Born) because it "considers them responsible for, and beneficiaries of, aggression against the people; and as an act of legitimate defense." [quotation marks as received]

The Che Guevara brigade adds that "we will not merely stand by in face of the robbery committed by monopolistic companies," and it also urges the people "to loot the food stores and supermarkets; to defend the national railway company and the state companies; to resist the miserable salaries, the unemployment, and the closure of factories; and to struggle against those who commit treason or surrender."

The communique states that: "With the childish excuse that the dollar rate pushes prices upward, and then that those prices also push the dollar exchange rate upward, those responsible for this awful carousel pretend not to be guilty of causing the situation."

The brigade adds: "With the approval of Menem's administration, these bloodsuckers are stealing the people's salaries, forcing small businesses and the national industry into bankruptcy, and breaking up state companies."

The Che Guevara brigade also maintains that such sectors "have no limit" to their action and they "are not moved by the hunger of women and children, or by the impotence of the unemployed, or by the agony of those who cannot buy medicines, or by the bitterness of those who observe how their life savings are being eroded."

The communique concludes by stating: "The people have been cornered and are brutally repressed if they resist, as is the case in Rosario."

At the end of last year the alleged Che Guevara brigade claimed responsibility for distributing food in three La Matanza slums. However, the true existence of this organization which has now chosen to carry out bomb attacks has not yet been verified.

The envelope with the communique was left in a telephone booth on 1200 Corrientes Avenue in this capital. This is the same method used previously when another communique was left addressed to this news agency.

Rosario 'Normal' After Early Morning Looting

PY2302201390 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 23 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Santa Fe Public Safety Secretary Colonel Omar Gimenez said today that the situation in Rosario is normal but not calm. He confirmed that all public safety agents are ready to prevent any kind of criminal action. [passage omitted]

Although Rosario was calm today at noon, a butcher shop, a grocery store, an ice cream parlor, and some other stores were looted today at dawn. The following is a report from LRA5 Radio Nacional Rosario's Julio Cesar Lopez:

[Begin Lopez recording] The situation in Rosario is absolutely calm. The joint provincial forces, Federal Police, National Gendarmerie, and Navy and River Prefecture personnel have been patrolling the streets of this city since last night. [passage omitted]

Only three incidents took place last night, one at an ice cream parlor, another at a small supermarket, and another in a butcher shop, from which 250 kg of meat were stolen. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Meanwhile, a small supermarket in Santa Fe was looted today at dawn by a group of 50 people who, after

breaking down the entrance doors with blunt objects, stole food and beverages before police arrived and managed to arrest 20 people. The Santa Fe police reported that those arrested include six minors, four women, and two members of the Workers Party and the Communist Party. [passage omitted]

At the same time a group of people tried to loot a store two blocks away from this supermarket, but the owner of the store and the arrival of the police prevented it. The police reported that they observed some activists in cars nearby who were urging people to participate in the lootings. [passage omitted]

Police in Chaco Province have intensified patrols near the supermarkets and food storage houses near the city of Resistencia.

Corrientes Province Justice Minister Mario Ramon Branca reported that his province is absolutely calm. He noted that the lootings are being carried out by trained people and that he had learned that the ultraleftist participants had received instructions in Buenos Aires.

Neuquen Governor Pedro Salvatore has said that Argentina's socioeconomic situation is alarming because production is paralyzed and there is high unemployment and hyperinflation.

Two Looting Incidents in Buenos Aires Province

PY2402013390 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2008 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] La Plata, 23 Feb (TELAM)—La Plata Province Interior Minister Carlos Alvarez told the press today that two cases of looting have been reported in Buenos Aires Province. The minister explained that one of them took place in Jose C. Paz, a town in General Sarmiento District. Approximately 30 people went into a grocery store at the intersection of 12 de Octubre and Gorriti Streets and stole merchandise from it. The looters broke down the door and, in addition to stealing merchandise, took a cash register and the grocer's scales.

Eight men entered another grocery store at the intersection of Hortiguera and Flores Streets in Gervasio Pavon, Moron District, and started to loot it. They were caught red-handed by policemen who recovered the merchandise that had been stolen.

Menem Sees 'Agitators' Behind Looting Incidents

PY2402014890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1201 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem today reiterated that the incidents that have been taking place in Argentina "are isolated events," noting that "there are agitators, and the issue involves not only hunger but ideological considerations."

Speaking at Government House, Menem warned that "we know who these agitators are because we know of

certain people who use anarchy and social chaos to gain stature, and we Argentines must prevent this." Menem reported that three individuals were arrested in Cordoba early this morning. These persons were riding in a car and using a loudspeaker to urge the people to loot supermarkets, which proves that "there are agitators."

Menem stressed that "the situation is under control," adding that "it is true that sometimes hunger is harsh, and it compels people to take desperate steps." However, he reiterated that "there are agitators."

Asked whether the situation may prompt a declaration of a state of siege, Menem answered that "it is out of the question unless events that the Constitution foresees as grounds for such measures take place."

Yoma Returns From Iran, Discusses Business Deals

*PY2402190290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1518 GMT 24 Feb 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (TELAM)—Ambassador Alfredo Carim Yoma, Foreign Ministry special affairs secretary, returned from Iran this morning after reaching trade, economic, and technological agreements that will bring Argentina \$300 to \$400 million in profit.

Yoma said at Ezeiza International Airport that the agreement he signed three days ago in Tehran with the participation of the Pirelli, Siderca, Techint, Subpga [expansions unknown], and other companies is the first of its kind signed by a Western country. He pointed out that it makes Iran the second most important purchaser of Argentine goods.

He said that this "is one of the best operations carried out by the Menem administration." Yoma said Iran will purchase between "560,000 and 750,000 tons" of wheat and 5,000 tons of fish from Argentina.

He also said that negotiations are continuing on the sale of 5,000 tons of beef and a three-year agreement to continue selling pig iron [palanquilla] from the SOMISA [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association] metal plant. Yoma pointed out the good work done by the [words indistinct] private companies and Argentine Ambassador to Iran Cuadri Castillo in these operations.

He said: "Argentina has lost some markets over time but it is our mission to reopen them, as in the case of Syria, to whom we sold 120,000 tons of wheat and 90,000 tons of flour in exchange for oil, which we then sold to Italy, in an excellent operation."

Yoma stressed that "these kinds of operations are kicking off the productive revolution" and added that "we will continue working on this same line. We intend to visit other countries with similar business delegations to bring hard currency into the country."

Foreign Minister on Nicaraguan Vote, Falklands

*PY2402111290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2342 GMT 23 Feb 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM) Commenting on the Nicaraguan presidential elections to be held on 25 February, Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today said: "Argentina will encourage support of the election results in that country."

In statements to the foreign press, Cavallo stressed that Argentina: "Has demanded and supported free elections in Nicaragua." He added: "No matter the political leaning" of the winner, "the Argentine Government promises support."

Concerning Panama, Cavallo said: "We have received with satisfaction the news of the U.S. troop withdrawal from that country."

He said the Argentine Government will appoint an ambassador to Panama as soon as there is concrete evidence that those troops are redeployed within the Canal Zone in keeping with the Carter-Torrijos treaty signed in 1977.

Cavallo said sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands "has not yet been included on the agenda of Argentine-British relations." He added: "Our foreign policy is backed by a large, I would say a very large, majority of the Argentine people."

Defines Falklands Citizenship

*PY2402144290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0148 GMT
24 Feb 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (EFE)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo reported today that Argentine authorities consider the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands to be Argentine citizens, and that they should be treated as such should any inhabitant of the Malvinas request identification documents.

Cavallo was referring to an identification card issued in 1962 to a Malvinas citizen, who requested it while in Uruguay, as a precedent for the Argentine authorities position.

The foreign minister stressed his government's respect for the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. He added that this stand "does not intend to offend or to impose anything."

According to the foreign minister, the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands will have all the rights of an Argentine citizen, though the desire of the inhabitants of the islands will always be respected.

He added that his country wants to talk with the United Kingdom someday about sovereignty, and that the inhabitants of the Malvinas must feel "that Argentina is willing to respect and guarantee their interests."

Cavallo admitted that the inhabitants of the islands are still experiencing the effects of the 1982 war "more

directly and personally than what we living on the continent are experiencing."

Cavallo said the issue of petroleum deposits near the islands was not explicitly discussed during the Madrid talks.

He said "the desire to cooperate in the exploitation of the resources [word indistinct] although the two parties will not be able to freely exploit them because of the sovereignty dispute."

Dollar Value Jumps 19.3 Percent Since 21 Feb

PY2402001590 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 23 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] (DYN)—The dollar had another skyrocketing session yesterday leaping over the 4,700 australs barrier before dipping to close at 4,400/4,500 australs (buy/sell), marking a 19.3 percent increase compared to Wednesday's [21 February] closing quotations.

Regular savings account interest rates averaged 48.29 percent monthly.

The unbelievable call money rates record of 601 percent monthly reached on Wednesday descended to more reasonable levels yesterday to quote at "only" 300 percent monthly, which means a drop by a half in just one financial session.

Brazil

Foreign Policy Changes Under Collor Previewed

PY2302150490 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE
SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Feb 90 p 4

[Report by Laurentino Gomes]

[Text] The reform wave that will come as a result of Fernando Collor de Mello's presidential inauguration on 15 March will cross the Atlantic Ocean and reach the African Continent a few weeks later. Collor plans some significant reforms in the Foreign Ministry, one of which will be the closure of Brazilian embassies in some countries of the African Continent and the reduction of embassy staff in others. Only Brazilian embassies in Portuguese-speaking African countries will remain open—for historical and cultural reasons—as well as those in the most important African countries. These embassies will represent Brazilian interests in the other African countries.

Each Brazilian embassy costs Itamaraty \$1 million per annum. The list of the embassies that will be closed is not yet complete. Their closure, however, is not as important from the economic viewpoint as it is from the foreign policy viewpoint. By closing down some of the embassies in Africa, Collor is marking the most important change in Brazilian relations with the rest of the world in the past 20 years.

With this apparent bureaucratic and structural decision, the new Brazilian administration is giving up Africanism, one of the bases of the so-called "responsible pragmatism" policy. Such policy, valid in Brazilian diplomacy since the times of President Geisel, gave priority treatment to Brazilian relations with Third World countries, thus confronting the rich countries.

"Africanism has failed," a high ranking diplomat of Itamaraty stated. This diplomat, responsible for planning Collor's new foreign policy, has decided to concentrate on more developed countries and on neighboring countries. A congressman with free access to the Itamaraty annex building and member of the president-elect's team, added: "One of the only results of Africanism was the malaria epidemic which hit the Sarney entourage in Angola." He was referring to a bout of malaria that affected Sarney's escorts during a visit to Luanda during 1988.

These exaggerations demonstrate the failure of Brazilian diplomacy in a region that is unable to defeat underdevelopment and absolute misery. The policy which was designed by the military and diplomatic counselors of former Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira. It considered the African countries, most of which were emerging from their freedom wars, as land open to great business possibilities and to Brazilian regional influence.

Together with Africanism, the so-called Third World Policy of former Brazilian administrations also failed. "In today's world there is no place for shortsightedness or narcissism," Collor said in a speech during a luncheon offered by businessmen and government officials in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. Collor was explaining the guidelines of the his new foreign policy. "The time of useless confrontations and foreign policy decisions based on ideological principles has ended," the same diplomat who helped Collor develop this policy added.

Realism and selectivity are the new magic words in Brazilian foreign policy. They show that the future Brazilian administration intends to select its international partners based on economic interests rather than for other reasons. "The Third World policy was based on the idea that the poor countries should form some kind of club to confront the rich countries," a Brazilian diplomat asserted. This same line of thought also meant that Brazil should have become the leader of a group of poor countries. "It is better to be the poorest among the rich than the richest among the poor," Collor clarified during a news conference after the elections.

The new foreign policy will also affect Brazilian relations with the Middle East. The Brazilian diplomatic preference for Arab countries, adopted after the 1974 oil crisis, will come to an end. Under pressure from the oil producing countries' Arab lobby, in 1977 Brazil voted for a UN resolution that proclaimed Zionism to be a form of racism. In the diplomatic language, where gestures generally count more than words, steps to correct that mistake began at a meeting—during Collor's first

engagement abroad—with World Jewish Council President Rabbi Edgar Bronfman.

"This does not mean that Brazil will turn its back on the Arab countries and ally itself with Israel, not at all," a diplomat said, adding "but we will become more selective." We will continue to pay special attention to countries like Saudi Arabia and Iraq, with which Brazil has strong commercial ties. "The alliance with the Arabs will cease to be of national security interest and will become something of convenience," the diplomat said.

The new foreign policy also considers that Brazil does not have any reason for direct international militancy on issues like Panama, Nicaragua, or El Salvador. These countries, even though they are Latin American, represent very little in Brazil's trade relations.

This reasoning is not applicable to other Latin American countries, particularly Brazil's neighbors. "The world today is tending to divide into large economic international zones," stresses a diplomat with a lot of experience in the area of trade and international agreements. "We have the United States, the EEC, the socialist countries, and those in the Pacific Ocean area which are led by Japan." Brazil's only alternative is to strengthen and to encourage integration with its neighbors.

Another sector believes that Brazil should free itself from the obstacles inherited from military regimes that affect its international policy, and this sector is currently gaining momentum. One of those obstacles is the decision not to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which forbids member countries from manufacturing nuclear devices for purposes of war. Brazil was never very fond of the idea of having international organizations monitoring its nuclear installations and consequently the country encountered many difficulties when seeking foreign financing, particularly for cooperation agreements in the area of the development of advanced technologies.

"Brazil does not have any immediate reason for manufacturing an atomic bomb," a Collor adviser said. "The refusal to sign the treaty is tremendous nonsense that gets us nowhere." The Brazilian and Argentine Governments—which have a mutual cooperation agreement—have considered the treaty discriminatory because it divides the world among those who can and cannot manufacture the bomb. Carlos Menem's administration has already undertaken a reevaluation of the issue and Collor's military ministers have done the same.

First Seizure of Crack in Belo Horizonte

PY2402212990 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 23 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Belo Horizonte—Approximately 300 grams of crack [preceding word in English]—a mixture of cocaine and chemicals—was seized on 21 February in Belo Horizonte. This is the first time that crack has been seized in Minas Gerais State. The drug, worth 250,000

new cruzados, was taken from the residence of trafficker Ibrahim Deab Nom Filho, who is under arrest at the federal police station.

The police operation was aimed at seizing some 60 kgs of pure cocaine that was going to be turned into crack. Street vendor Norma Lucia Soares, a drug addict, was also arrested. At Ibrahim Deab's house the police found sodium bicarbonate, powdered soap, and plaster powder, all of which were going to be mixed with the cocaine to increase its volume; precision scales; and test tubes.

Feb Inflation Rate Reaches All-Time Record

PY2402235690 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE
SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Feb 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Inflation during President Jose Sarney's five-year term in office has reached 1,062,644 percent. This means that, on the average, prices are now 10,000 times higher than in March 1985 when President Jose Sarney took over. During these 60 months of his term the average monthly inflation rate was 16.7 percent. The all-time record for monthly inflation was announced yesterday by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics: 72.78 percent for February. This figure is higher than the 70.28 percent recorded in January 1989, when the Summer Plan was launched. [passage omitted]

Chile

Pinochet Advisory Committee Set for 11 Mar

PY2302233990 Santiago LA SEGUNDA
in Spanish 14 Feb 90 p 9

[Text] A new organization called the "Political-Strategic Advisory Committee of the Commander in Chief of the Army," [Comite asesor politico-estrategico del Comandante en Jefe del Ejercito], which will be very close to the current president, will begin its activities at the National Defense Ministry on 11 March.

The members of this committee will directly advise the commander in chief on political, strategic, and national security matters, taking into account his capacity as a member of the National Security Council.

This committee will include at least 30 military men who have served as General Pinochet's advisers on political and government matters in the past few years.

Most of the committee's members will be staff officers who discharge duties at the General Secretariat of the Presidency. Some of them have even worked for the Presidential Advisory Committee.

The director of this committee will be Major General Jorge Ballerino, current secretary general of the Presidency. Ballerino is one of Pinochet's closest advisers. He served as Pinochet's military aide-de-camp and later as chief of the military cabinet.

The number-two man at the "advisory committee" will be Colonel Julio Vejar, current head of the research department of the General Secretariat of the Presidency.

Pinochet Offers To Help Aylwin Achieve Success

*PY2402215190 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2112 GMT 24 Feb 90*

[Text] Santiago, 24 Feb (TELAM-DPA)—Chilean President Augusto Pinochet has offered President-elect Patricio Aylwin "our arms, minds, energy, and especially our will, so that his success will be the success of the fatherland." Pinochet made this remark as he addressed supporters in Rancagua during the third stage of his "farewell" tour through the country.

Soviet Officials To Attend Aylwin's Inauguration

*PY2502000290 Santiago FORTIN MAPOCHO
in Spanish 18 Feb 90 p 4*

[Excerpt] Representatives of the USSR Supreme Soviet and Foreign Ministry are listed among the special guests who will attend President-elect Patricio Aylwin's inauguration ceremonies in Valparaiso and Santiago on 11-12 March.

This information has been reported by Carlos Klamer, Foreign Ministry protocol director-designate.

Klamer said that "at President Aylwin's invitation, high-ranking officials from East Europe will come to the inauguration: the future president of Yugoslavia and high-ranking Polish, Czechoslovakian and Hungarian officials."

Asked whether Soviet Government officials are expected, Klamer noted that "a representative from the Supreme Soviet and from the USSR Foreign Ministry will also attend."

He added that the idea is "to immediately begin talks in order to reestablish relations with Moscow and to increase existing relations with other East European countries to the highest level." [passage omitted]

Poland's Walesa Will Not Attend

*PY2502023690 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Feb 90*

[Text] Lech Walesa, the renowned Polish labor leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, has announced that he will not be able to attend the inauguration of President-elect Patricio Aylwin on 11 March. This information was released by Diego Olivares, acting president of the Chilean United Labor Federation [CUT]. Olivares added that Lech Walesa will possibly visit Chile at another time.

[Begin Olivares recording] We are very sorry that Lech Walesa will not be able to visit our country, but we do understand that he has many union tasks to attend to and many duties to discharge in view of the many

changes that are taking place all over Eastern Europe. We wish to reiterate, however, that we will do everything we can to make it possible for him to make an official visit to Chile. [end recording]

Walesa has sent a letter explaining that extremely significant internal developments and the radical changes in Eastern Europe—especially in his country, Poland—have made it impossible for him to meet with labor leaders in Chile. Diego Olivares said, however, that delegations of labor leaders from the United States, Europe, and from most Latin American countries have confirmed that they will come for the inauguration.

Iquique Mayor No Longer Appointed by President

*PY2402211290 Santiago FORTIN MAPOCHO
in Spanish 10 Feb 90 p 4*

[Text] Chilean President-elect Patricio Aylwin will not be able to appoint the mayor of Iquique due to an amendment to the municipal charter that was published yesterday in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. This northern city, where General Pinochet will establish a new Army division and will probably live, is therefore no longer one of the 16 cities whose mayors are appointed by the president of the nation, according to the charter. The mayor of Iquique will be appointed by the Corede [Regional Development Council—Consejo Regional de Desarrollo], as are all other mayors throughout the country.

Aylwin will appoint the mayors of Arica, Antofagasta, Valparaiso, Vina del Mar, Santiago, Conchali, La Florida, Las Condes, Nunoa, Concepcion, Talcahuano, Temuco, Puerto Montt, Coihaique and Punta Arenas.

Iquique was also on this list until yesterday. However, the single-article amendment simply took Iquique off the list.

PCCh Drawing Up New Political, Social Program

*PY2402020090 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Feb 90*

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has initiated its own perestroyka. A few days ago it began an analysis of a new political and social program that will serve as a navigational chart for the PCCh in coming years.

This was announced by PCCh Secretary General Volodia Teitelboim during a celebration marking the 80th birthday of Americo Zorrilla, a former finance minister in the UP [Popular Unity] administration. The celebration was also attended by other PCCh leaders.

Teitelboim and [PCCH Political Committee member] Jorge Insunza reported that on 26 February they will release a basic document [documento base] that is being widely and deeply discussed by the rank and file. This process of discussions and proposals, in which other

political trends and social organizations will also participate, will culminate in May 1990 when the final program, which could be totally different from the initial one, will be outlined.

Teitelboim said that he expects profound criticism on various issues, as the PCCh is not a conformist party. It is even possible that guidelines that were rejected at the 15th PCCh Congress will be readopted through this discussion process. According to the PCCh secretary general, the idea was actually conceived during the aforementioned congress in order to make the changes that the present political atmosphere, which is full of change, requires.

[Begin Teitelboim recording] The idea is to draw up an entirely new PCCh program, not in an effort to be original but because international and national realities have changed greatly and it is therefore necessary to keep up with the times.

This reality tells us that we must draw up a program that conforms to a Chile that has changed over recent years and decades. A program that was approved in 1956, 34 years ago, is obsolete. [end recording]

Asked about the attitudes of ex-Communists and current PCCh militants, which suggest a more profound opening in Marxist concepts in the new society, Teitelboim disregarded the strength of those groups.

Regarding events in Eastern Europe, Teitelboim insisted that a certain model of socialism—not communism—has failed.

Illustrating even more the significance of drawing up a new program with a renewed doctrine and political line, Volodia Teitelboim said that this true PCCh charter will not be an ideological document with social characteristics. It will be in tune with current times, he said.

Communist Leader Concerned About CNI Dissolution
PY2402133490 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] The formal dissolution of the CNI [National Information Center] does not eliminate the penal responsibility of CNI agents and the dictatorship, said Chilean Communist Party leader Jaime Insunza.

Insunza added that crimes cannot be allowed to go unpunished, and democracy calls for the total clarification of the crimes and the trials of those who are responsible.

Insunza said the decision to place former CNI agents under Army jurisdiction was particularly grave because it turns the Army into an accomplice, protector, or accessory of these agents and the crimes they committed.

The Communist leader said the country must first know who were DINA [National Intelligence Directorate] agents before DINA was replaced by the CNI. These people should

not be placed in the Army, or any other Armed Forces or public institution; they should be available to answer to the courts as civilians, Insunza stressed.

Insunza said the decision to hand the Army all of the CNI files distorts and hinders Army functions and responsibilities. These files, Insunza added, should be given to the courts to help clarify past criminal activities.

Insunza said the decision to transfer all CNI properties to the Army was outrageous. He said the majority of CNI assets originated in illegal expropriations and should be returned to their rightful owners.

Colombia

Two U.S. Citizens Released by ELN in Antioquia
PA2502012390 Paris AFP in Spanish 0034 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 24 Feb (AFP)—Two U.S. citizens, who had been kidnapped by guerrillas on 12 February in Antioquia Department in northwestern Colombia, were released today.

Jamus Arthur Donnelly, an automotive spare parts salesman, and Professor Davis Leslie Kent, who spoke to reporters in Medellin, revealed a message from the pro-Castroite Army of National Liberation, (ELN) which held them hostage for 12 days.

"The next time there is a massacre or the government causes the disappearance of one of our companions, such as Juan Fernando Porras, the ELN will punish the wealthy people, the oligarchy of Colombia," the extremist group's message stated. Both Donnelly, 62, as well as Kent, 40, said they were treated well by the rebels, with whom they had extensive discussions on the situation in Colombia.

According to the two U.S. citizens, the ELN kidnapped them as part of the so-called "Operation Colombia" to protest the recent presence of U.S. President George Bush in Colombia, which hosted the recent 15 February antidrug summit in Cartagena, and what they called "increasing U.S. intervention in Colombia."

Donnelly and Kent were turned over by the ELN to a commission made up of officials of the Antioquia regional attorney general's office and members of the human rights commission in a region near Cocorna, 80 km southeast of Medellin.

Minister Says Guerrillas No Longer Political
PA2302164690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Cali—During the annual meeting of the Cauca Valley Association of Farmers and Cattlemen, Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds said that the guerrilla movements in Colombia are no longer attached

to any political party but engaged in kidnapping, blackmail, and issuing threats, thus becoming gangs of crooks.

The minister said that, until a few years ago, the guerrillas fought for political ideas that seemed to be supported by some sectors to some extent but that the rebels are now busy attacking and kidnapping, particularly farmers, to demand extortion money. He also said it has been reported that the kidnappers of farmers expect an immediate automatic payment of 50 million pesos. The minister added that, in many instances, the guerrillas openly engage in the illicit and shady activity of drug trafficking.

Guerrillas Blow Up Power Lines, Attack Army

*PA2302151790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1213 GMT 23 Feb 90*

[Text] Medellin—Engineers and technicians from the Antioquia Power Company [Empresa Antioquena de Energia] have been working for several hours to restore power in Turbo Municipality after guerrillas blew up power lines there last night.

Meanwhile, police and military patrols in the area continue to guarantee security for citizens and to reinforce police headquarters to prevent more guerrilla actions such as the one that took place last night.

The curfew imposed by the military chief of the region will be lifted at 0800, and a special meeting was announced to review the public order situation a few weeks before the elections for mayor and two days after a security summit was held with the participation of Antioquia Department Governor Elena Hernandez Montoya.

In the next few hours, the Uraba Military Command will issue a press communique reporting on the public order situation following last night's violent incidents in Turbo Municipality, 368 km from Medellin, in northwestern Antioquia Department. A group of guerrillas from an unidentified group attacked military units for several hours. No casualties were reported in the clashes, according to the report released to Radio Cadena Nacional by the authorities.

7 Killed, 15 Missing

*PA2302180990 Bogota Cadena Radial Super
in Spanish 1710 GMT 23 Feb 90*

[Report by Luis Carlos Galeano from Medellin]

[Text] One noncommissioned officer and six soldiers killed, three wounded, and 15 missing is the result of this morning's clash between troops of the Bombona Battalion and a column of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, near Segovia, Antioquia.

The official report states that the guerrillas attacked the Bombona Battalion patrol base on the outskirts of Segovia, resulting in the above casualties.

The troops responded to the attack and managed to kill an undetermined number of guerrillas. At this moment, law enforcement forces have launched an operation in that northeastern region of Antioquia. Thus far the identities of the noncommissioned officer and six soldiers killed in the guerrilla attack have not been revealed. It was reported that the 15 missing soldiers may have been taken hostage by the attacking rebel column.

Military Commander, Barco Comment

*PA2402151190 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1222 GMT 24 Feb 90*

[Text] Bogota—Calm appears to be returning to the country following the death of one noncommissioned officer and six soldiers on 23 February as a result of guerrilla attacks in five Antioquia Department municipalities, the kidnapping of a mayor, a government official, and a candidate in Cauca Department, and the death of a guerrilla in Guaviare.

The guerrilla actions began on the evening of 22 February when a large column of the Popular Liberation Army [ELN] entered Turbo Municipality, northeast of Antioquia Department, and sabotaged the power system leaving the entire area without electricity. National Army spokesmen said that one noncommissioned officer and six soldiers were killed, four were wounded, and 15 others were kidnapped during the attacks against military bases and police installations in Segovia by the 4th Front of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia].

Meanwhile in Bogota, Military Forces Commander Nelson Mejia Henao denied that Colombia is in guerrilla hands and reaffirmed the troops' unyielding determination to defend national order and democracy. The highest-ranking officer, who expressed regret over the deaths of the soldiers in Segovia, Antioquia Department, said that this type of incident is normal within the framework of the war that the government is waging against armed subversion.

Last night, President Virgilio Barco Vargas, after the closing ceremony of the 25th Agrarian Congress of the (FAC) [expansion unknown], said that the guerrillas are desperate and this is reflected in their actions. Nevertheless, the Armed Forces will continue to fight subversion anywhere in the country, he added. The president expressed his satisfaction at the release of Santander Department Senator Jorge Serrano Gonzalez, whom he described as one of the most important people that Colombian democracy has at this moment. He added finally: I hope that is he already at home with his family.

ELN Releases Kidnapped Senator in Cucuta

PA2302200890 Bogota Cadena Radial Super
in Spanish 1902 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Social Conservative Senator and former Santander Governor Jorge Serrano Gonzalez was released today by the Camilist Union of the ELN [Army of National Liberation] in the urban region of Cucuta, authorities have reported.

The senator confirmed the report later and expressed appreciation for the efforts of former President Misael Pastrana Borrero and Attorney General Alfonso Gomez Mendez to obtain his release.

Serrano said that he will soon deliver documents to the authorities, the Commission of Notables, and the presidential hopefuls.

Commission of Notables Accepts FARC Cease-Fire

PA2402224890 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2017 GMT
24 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 24 Feb (DPA)—The recent cease-fire offer by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) was accepted today by the so-called Commission of Notables, whose members are five former presidents, and church and business representatives.

However, in a message addressed to the guerrillas' central command, the Commission of Notables said that, once the cease-fire is put into effect, the FARC will have to demonstrate "with unequivocal deeds," their willingness to initiate peace talks.

Over the last few weeks, the FARC—the country's oldest and largest guerrilla group—has expressed its intention to decree a cease-fire, although yesterday, according to Army spokesmen, a FARC column killed seven soldiers and kidnapped 15 during an attack on an Army garrison.

A few days ago, the Commission of Notables, made up of former Presidents Carlos Lleras Restrepo, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Julio Cesar Turbay, Misael Pastrana Borrero, and Belisario Betancur, as well as Cardinal Mario Revollo Bravo and businessman Fabio Echeverri Correa, told the FARC that the authorities had a right to fight them.

The Colombian Government is currently holding peace talks only with the 19 April Movement (M-19), which will soon be demobilizing their fronts to rejoin civilian life.

At the same time, the Army of National Liberation (ELN) has announced that this year it will step up its attacks in an effort to sabotage the 11 March municipal and parliamentary elections and the 27 May presidential elections.

Gunmen Kill 6 UP Members in Meta Department

PA2402234890 Paris AFP in Spanish 2222 GMT
24 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 24 Feb (AFP)—It was reported in Bogota that six peasants, militants of the legal leftist Patriotic Union (UP), were killed today by several men wearing military uniforms in the plaza of the town of El Castillo, southeastern Meta Department.

Ricardo Valero Lopez, mayor of the town, confirmed that the killing occurred at 0600 (1100 GMT) in the center of the plaza when a group of unidentified persons "shot" the six peasants.

The mayor explained that the assassins, who were wearing Armed Forces uniforms, forced the defenseless peasants to lie on the floor and then directed machinegun fire at their heads.

The peasants were members of the leftist UP, a political group that is legally recognized but has been the target of armed ultrarightist groups. The UP has had more than 1,000 members killed during its five years of existence.

Mayor Valero Lopez said that the military authorities of El Castillo unleashed an operation in the region in search of the criminals. UP presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo has charged that the proximity of the 11 March legislative elections and the 27 May presidential elections has caused a resurgence of the "campaign of extermination" against members of his party.

ELN Frees Mayor of Almaguer After Kidnapping

PA2402235390 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Popayan—Fabio Gomez Rengifo, mayor of Almaguer municipality, was released at noon by the ELN [Army of National Liberation] guerrillas who had held him captive for five days. The mayor said this afternoon that he was treated well and that through him the subversives sent a special communique for the government and people of Cauca Department.

12 ELN Deaths Reported in Segovia Department

PA2502024790 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 0105 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The public order situation in various parts of the country is very delicate, especially in Antioquia, where over the past few hours there have been serious attacks on members of the Armed Forces. The situation at the Bella Vista jail is also very serious.

Combined Police and Army troops today inflicted 12 casualties on guerrillas in Segovia Municipality, 300 km northeast of Medellin. The troops clashed with the guerrillas following an Army of National Liberation [ELN] column attack yesterday on the Bonbona Battalion. Seven soldiers were killed and 15 captured. Another clash took place in Turbo Municipality, where

the ELN suffered one casualty at the hands of members of the naval station in that city.

In Medellin, meanwhile, a large number of knives were confiscated at the Bella Vista National Jail. The confiscation followed a search by police in the jail's [word indistinct]. Minutes before the search began, shots were heard inside the jail, and two inmates were wounded. Nevertheless, the police did not find guns inside the jail.

[Begin Metropolitan Police Commander Humberto Camero recording] The first shots were fired by inmates, and subsequent shots were fired by guards. The National Police were not involved in those incidents. [end recording]

Telephone communication with the northeastern part of Antioquia is expected to resume by late evening. The region's telephone facility was blown up guerrillas.

Prison Inmates Riot, Unknown Number 'Wounded'

PA2302201490 Bogota Inrvision Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 1746 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] What the guards of the Bella Vista prison, who had been on strike for three days, feared finally happened this morning. While trying to conduct an inspection in prison ward four, the guards were shot by the inmates, thus initiating a confrontation that has resulted in an undetermined number of wounded. The Bella Vista prison is currently surrounded by police and Army troops.

While it seemed that the strike problem had been solved yesterday with an agreement signed by the prison system general director and the Bella Vista guards, new disturbances took place this morning at the jail. Heavy shooting, which began in prison ward four, awoke 3,000 inmates. When the guards arrived at the ward, they were shot by some of the 875 prisoners of that prison ward.

The prisoners and guards began exchanging shots. The rioting prisoners demanded the presence of the media and the Red Cross. They claimed that their lives were at stake and that they had no weapons. That is the reason why they have refused to leave their cells and move to the prison yards. The inmates also hung protest posters on walls and bars.

This mutiny has to do with the agreements signed yesterday after the momentary detention of the prison system general director by the prison guards. The agreement includes the following points: —There will be no automatic weapons in the jail, because that is what international conventions establish.

—There will not be a military prison director for the Bella Vista prison, although there will be thorough inspections supported by Army personnel.

—There will be prison facility improvements.

—Millions of pesos will be allocated to attend to the prison's urgent needs.

The metropolitan police elite forces and GOES [Special Operations Group] have been surrounding the Bella

Vista prison all morning. Antiriot vehicles and 4th Brigade Pedro Nel Ospina Engineering Battalion personnel supported the police actions to prevent possible new disturbances.

Uncertainty prevails inside the Bella Vista National Prison, because up until now the authorities have no information on the exact number of wounded.

ELN Says Kidnapped Soldiers To Be Released

PA2502144490 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The ELN [National Army of Liberation] has announced that it will free the 12 soldiers who were kidnapped in Segovia to protest the disappearance of one its members.

The ELN said that the 12 soldiers are safe and sound and will be released after the ELN has contacted various government agencies. The ELN also said that the soldiers will be treated as prisoners of war and that their lives will be respected according to international treaties. The ELN has promised to release them unharmed in a mountain sector of Antioquia Department.

'Hired Assassins' Kill Patriotic Union Official

PA2302142790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1214 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Medellin—A wake is being held at the Mutata Municipal Council office for Patriotic Union Councilman Damaso Diaz Tapia, who was killed last night near the mayor's office by two hired assassins, who were able to escape.

Mutata Mayor Belarmino Salinas Renteria told Radio Cadena Nacional that the relatives of Diaz Tapia will soon decide whether he will be buried in Mutata this afternoon or whether he will be buried in San Pedro de Uraba or Arboletes, where some of his other relatives live.

Barco Says Attacks on Pipeline Cost \$512 Million

PA2502151390 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] President Virgilio Barco has said that the self-styled ELN [National Army of Liberation], with its continuous attacks on the country's pipelines, has caused more than \$512 million in losses. He said this during the opening of the "Change to Gas" program in southern Bogota. He warned, however, that the country will continue using its traditional energy despite the terrorist efforts to stop us.

He said that so far in 1990 Colombia has lost \$40 million as a result of terrorist attacks by the rebel movements. He also said that the terrorists, by placing bombs on the Cano Limon-Cobena pipeline, are hurting, first of all, the peasants whose crops are ruined by the crude oil.

2,175 Kg of Cocaine Seized in Cordoba

PA2602020190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0105 GMT
26 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 25 Feb (EFE) — It has been officially reported that the Colombian Army confiscated a total of 2,175 kg of cocaine in Cordoba Department, northern Colombia, today.

The cocaine, ready to be shipped to the United States, was found by 10th Brigade soldiers at a farm near Puerto Arturo, 580 km northwest of Bogota. A source from the 10th Brigade, stationed in Monteria, capital of Cordoba Department, said this is the largest drug confiscation so far this year.

The authorities said they did not know who owned the cocaine, and did not report whether anyone had been detained.

Paraguay

Quayle Visit, Inauguration Activities Noted

PY2302213890 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
23 Feb 90 p 11

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana reported yesterday at Government House that the presidents of Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Guatemala are scheduled to visit Asuncion in March. The visiting chiefs of state, who will be in Asuncion for a few hours, will be welcomed at "Silvio Pettirossi" Airport by President Rodriguez.

Carlos Andres Perez, Oscar Arias, and Vinicio Cerezo will make a stopover in Asuncion after they attend the inauguration ceremony of Chilean President-elect Patricio Aylwin Azocar, which President Rodriguez has been invited to attend. President-elect Aylwin will also host a presidential summit in Chile.

U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, who will also arrive from Chile, will begin an official visit to Asuncion on 12 March. Quayle will be in Chile with Democratic Party Senator Edward Kennedy, who will also attend the presidential inauguration ceremony there.

According to a report issued in Washington yesterday, Quayle's visit to Paraguay signifies the full support of the United States for the Paraguayan Government.

In addition to other official ceremonies, Quayle will meet with Rodriguez at Government House.

Quayle will be in Asuncion until 13 March. On that day he will depart for Itaipu, from where he will leave for Brasilia to attend the inauguration of Collor de Mello.

President Rodriguez will leave for Montevideo one day ahead of schedule. The presidential entourage is scheduled to leave Asuncion at 1700 GMT on 28 March aboard a Paraguayan Airline (LAP) flight. That evening he will attend a presidential dinner hosted by outgoing

Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. Several Latin American presidents will attend this dinner.

On 2 March Rodriguez will attend the inauguration ceremony of Uruguayan President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera.

Rodriguez was originally scheduled to travel to Montevideo only to attend Lacalle's presidential inauguration ceremony on 1 March. But on 22 March he was invited by President Sanguinetti to arrive one day earlier.

It has been confirmed that Rodriguez will hold a meeting with Argentine President Carlos Menem on 2 April, when they will inaugurate the Encarnacion-Posadas international bridge. Rodriguez and Menem will leave that day for Buenos Aires, where Rodriguez will make an official visit.

Legislators on U.S. State Department Report

PY2402194090

[Editorial Report] Asuncion HOY in Spanish on 24 February on page 10 under the headline "Paraguayan Legislators React" publishes a 1,200-word report on the reactions of four legislators to the U.S. State Department report on Paraguay.

Senator Pedro Hugo Pena, president of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, says the report reflects the State Department's "interest" in the country, adding that it "cannot be interpreted as an admonition" but as a sign of their desire "to cooperate" with our government. Pena notes, however, that the conclusions were rather "hasty" but that they could not be interpreted as "criticism of our government by the U.S. Government."

Deputy Bernardino Cano Radil says the report was, in general, "objective" and that the criticism should serve "to alert us" to what "we should improve." Deputy Cano, however, considers the report rather "unfair" because it does not understand Paraguay's lack of a democratic tradition and the difficulties in conducting a transition toward a fully democratic society.

Deputy Carlos Duarte says the State Department report "reflects 50 percent of the reality of the country" and adds that it is well known that "corruption could not be eradicated." Deputy Duarte notes that the issue of "the arrests and repression of peasants is the single most important human rights violation, which requires urgent attention."

Deputy Osvaldo Bergonzi points out that the report was "relatively objective" because it includes "unfair aspects regarding the democratic transition of our country." Bergonzi says that the fact that the report "rather scornfully" mentions that the Colorado Party is still in power shows its ignorance of "the struggle by so many Colorado Party followers for freedom and democracy." Bergonzi regrets that the report pretends "that Paraguay should have become a marvelous country in such a short time."

Bergonzi notes that the report "is beneficial in many respects" but casts doubts, which "could hinder private investment" in the country.

Judge Orders Arrest of Medellin Cartel Members

PY2402174290 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
24 Feb 90 p 35

[Text] Several members of the "Medellin Cartel" could possibly be residing in Paraguay, and Judge Arnulfo Arias has therefore ordered their arrest and informed the Central Police Headquarters and the Interior Ministry.

A U.S. court petition in this respect led to the investigation.

The arrest warrant issued by Judge Arias names Raul Orjuela, Gustavo Govira, Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Gerardo Mercado, and Ivon Duarte, whose entry into the country has apparently been recorded. They are being sought by authorities in Colombia and the United States for alleged involvement in cocaine trafficking. They were named by other members of the "Cartel," which operates in Medellin, Colombia.

The judge ordered that Interpol cooperate to arrest those people if they try to leave the country and to extradite them.

It has also been reported that they allegedly participated in terrorist attacks—for which they must be tried—especially in Colombia, where many charges have been filed against them.

Judge Arias ordered their immediate arrest because he thinks that there are legal grounds to do so and also because they are considered very dangerous criminals.

FRG Vice Economic Minister Arrives on Visit

PY2402164890 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
24 Feb 90 p 18

[Text] Sigfried Lengl, vice minister of the FRG's Ministry of Economic Cooperation, arrived yesterday. Lengl will remain in Paraguay until 27 February and will meet with government authorities to discuss issues of bilateral interest. Lengl's agenda today includes a visit to Loma Plata, in the central Chaco region, with Agriculture Minister Hernando Bertoni. The purpose of the visit is to observe an agricultural experimental station being built within the framework of FRG-Paraguayan Technical Cooperation Agreements.

His agenda also includes meetings with other government officials 26-27 February.

Peru

Vargas Llosa Discusses Fredemo Proposals

PY2402022490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1923 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Lima, 23 Feb (TELAM-DPA-EFE)—Democratic Front (Fredemo) presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa has proposed the establishment of a true "popular capitalism" if he wins the 8 April presidential elections. He added that he will try to negotiate with the Shining Path leftist organization.

He made this proposal during a three-hour speech he delivered at an annual conference sponsored by the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP), which is under the control of Communists. "Socialist Left" presidential candidate Alfonso Barrante did not attend the conference although he was invited.

Outlining the FREDemo government program, Vargas Llosa said that privatization of public enterprises is the main way to spread ownership. Public enterprises must be transferred to the civil sector through mechanisms such as expanded share ownership, which will primarily benefit the labor sector. In this way, he said, Peru will become a country of ownership and will move toward a true popular capitalism. Vargas Llosa said that the proposal for the development of a market economy and the creation of a popular capitalism is the best alternative for solving Peru's current economic crisis.

Vargas Llosa reaffirmed that Fredemo will recognize the right of the peasant to acquire land and that he will not allow either altruistic policies or food subsidies because these are measures that have promoted dirty deals and encouraged smuggling in the country. He reiterated that he will legalize the situation of the thousands of workers and businessmen operating at the edge of the law.

Vargas Llosa, who was booed by some people attending the conference, criticized Peru's current economic policy, which has allowed a few to get rich. "This is one of the reasons for the failure in Latin America and the Third World countries," he added.

He said that labor's constitutional rights will not be amended. His criticism of labor stability caused serious attacks against the government program he released a few months ago.

Vargas Llosa says that the tax burden will be increased only for those who will be able to pay it. He added that the state economies are collapsing, as evidenced in socialist countries.

He said that he himself will lead the antiterrorist struggle and that he is willing to negotiate with the pro-Maoist Shining Path terrorist organization through a go-between.

Candidate Barrantes Discloses Election Program

*PY2302130690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
2200 GMT 21 Feb 90*

[Election advertisement by Alfonso Barrantes, presidential candidate for the Movement of the Socialist Left, in Lima on 21 February—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Friends, it is possible to be alone when loving or when crying, but it is essential to join with others when struggling for the people's well-being. That is why I have the friends, the experts, to advise me. Those friends want to win your votes so they will become members of the next Congress. They want to serve the country and its people.

I have come here to present our program and to reiterate that we identify our movement with the middle class, the suffering middle class, the workers and peasants, the small- and medium-sized businessmen, the small- and medium-sized traders; that is, the essential roots of the fatherland. [passage omitted]

We have five essential goals: The first involves transformation of the state, democratization of society, and promotion of self-government.

These goals are essential to ensure our country's governability and everyone's joint effort to overcome our present predicament and advance in the construction of a just future.

We will guarantee plurality and political rotation in government. The process, however, should be consolidated by the strengthening of local and regional governments and by the enactment of a law on political parties, accepting their need but also providing guidance on their responsibilities to the country.

We will introduce two constitutional amendment proposals in Congress within this framework. The first amendment will differentiate the duties of the chief of state from that of the chief of the government. The responsibilities of the latter will fall on the president of the Council of Ministers, who will coordinate all internal sectorial policies. He will have all the prerogatives of this new position. If the country elects Alfonso Barrantes as president, Peru will have true ministers and not just personal presidential secretaries.

The second initiative for constitutional reform affects the legislative branch. We propose to replace the two-chamber system with a single-chamber system and reduce the total number of representatives to improve their capacity to legislate and supervise and to avoid unnecessary delays. We do not need more representatives; we need better representatives.

Our second objective is to defeat inflation and to reform the productive apparatus. To really defeat inflation, without impoverishing thousands of Peruvians, we have to create a huge number of jobs and increase the production of essential goods and services. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Five Presidents To Attend 1 March Inauguration

*PY2402142090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0219 GMT
24 Feb 90*

[Text] Montevideo, 23 Feb (EFE)—Official sources reported today that five South American presidents will attend the 1 March inauguration of Uruguayan President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle.

According to the report, Presidents Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia, Virgilio Barco of Colombia, General Andres Rodriguez of Paraguay, Jose Sarney of Brazil, and Carlos Saul Menem of Argentina will arrive in Montevideo on 28 February.

They will be welcomed at Carrasco International Airport by current Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Presidents-elect Patricio Aylwin of Chile and Fernando Collor de Melo of Brazil will also be present as Lacalle's special guests.

USSR Pays \$50 Million for 1,700 Tons of Wool

*PY2402172690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0246 GMT
24 Feb 90*

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 22 Feb (EFE)—The Soviet Union last week bought 1,700 tons of washed and processed wool for \$50 million.

This purchase unblocked the wool market, which was closed after the PRC canceled its purchase orders and Japan reduced its orders.

Soviet trade representative Nikolaiy Frolov [name as received] reported in Montevideo that the USSR has already bought \$110 million of Uruguayan wool so far this year.

A Soviet trade mission that recently visited Montevideo also bought 8,000 tons of beef, \$25 million of processed leather, and 60,000 tons of Uruguayan surplus wheat.

Although the Soviet wool purchase will allow Uruguay to mobilize its market, hundreds of millions of kilograms of wool continue to be stored in the main wool-producing countries: Australia and Argentina.

The suspension of purchases by the PRC and Japan and the reduction of Soviet purchases by the end of 1989 caused the accumulation of wool products and consequently reduced its international price. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Man Shot by Police in Barquisimeto Riots Dies

PA2302210390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1915 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Caracas, 23 Feb (EFE)—Police sources have reported that a student died today in Cabudare, 260 km west of Caracas, after he was wounded by a policeman's bullet during the 22 February disturbances in Barquisimeto, in the eastern part of Venezuela.

Student groups demonstrated today in the Barquisimeto neighborhood of Cabudare to protest the murder of the student, which occurred when police agents entered the Pedagogical Institute in Barquisimeto after students took it over.

Police sources also reported that at least 10 students and three policemen had been wounded during the riots.

The Barquisimeto commercial center has been guarded by National Guard troops since early this morning to prevent looting and disturbances.

A wave of riots started in Venezuela on 20 February after the Supreme Court decided to revoke the arrest orders against several former ministers and top officials of Jaime Lusinchi's government (1984-1989) who have been accused of administrative corruption.

Today, police and National Guard troops fired tear gas at demonstrators who assaulted a food delivery truck in Merida, 700 km to the south of Caracas. Merida is the site of the country's second largest university, with approximately 15,000 students.

In the past 48 hours, 100 students have been arrested at different demonstrations in Caracas, Barquisimeto, Merida, Barcelona, Puerto La Cruz, and Cumana.

The demonstrations are occurring almost a year after the tragic events of February 1989, in which hundreds of persons died when the Army intervened to reestablish order after there was a wave of looting and riots because of an increase in transportation rates.

On 20 February, the Supreme Court of Justice lifted the arrest orders against former Planning Minister Modesto Freites, former Finance Minister Manuel Azpurua, former Development Minister Hector Hurtado, Former President of the Venezuelan Central Bank Hector Meneses, former President of the Foreign Trade Institute Mauricio Arraujo, Eduardo Mayobre, and four more former high officials who have been accused of embezzlement.

The student who died today in Cabudare is the first to have died since the rioting began in the country's main cities.

Foreign Minister Addresses UN on Drug Policy

PA2602015490 Paris AFP in Spanish 0733 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart warned today at the United Nations that "mafias are being organized in countries used for the drug routes and these countries could become producing countries."

During his address to the General Assembly's special session on international cooperation in the struggle against the illegal demand, trafficking, and distribution of drugs, Foreign Minister Figueredo pointed out that their geographic location alone is turning a greater number of countries—including Venezuela—into distribution centers.

These countries also require "international cooperation that allows them to apply measures and control drug trafficking through their territory without having to use resources that would be used for the nation's development under other circumstances," the Venezuelan foreign minister insisted.

"Venezuela believes that this UN forum should serve to outline an overall strategy, adapted to the magnitude of the world's problem," Figueredo pointed out when referring to the draft political declaration and world action program that will be voted on, and most probably approved, on 23 February when this special General Assembly meeting concludes.

When expressing the Venezuelan Government's willingness to participate in this international program, the foreign minister told the UN members that "President Carlos Andres Perez has firmly pledged, both locally and abroad, to participate in all joint actions aimed at eradicating this crime against mankind." Foreign Minister Figueredo even pointed out that the measures being considered by the Venezuelan Government include "the seizure of possessions obtained through illegal activities and the establishment of mechanisms to avoid the laundering of drug-trafficking profits."

The Venezuelan representative also announced that his government has granted top priority to the internal constitutional mechanisms required to approve the UN resolution against the illegal trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances, so its ratification can be expected shortly.

Finally, Figueredo congratulated Colombian President Virgilio Barco—"a renowned fighter"—for his crusade against drugs, emphasizing that the Venezuelans fully support his struggle.

The General Assembly's special session will conclude on 23 February with the approval of a "political declaration" that confirms the willingness to wage an overall struggle against drugs and an "action program" with specific concrete measures at a national and international level.

Guyana

President Hoyte Urges End of Foreign 'Meddling'

FL2402175190 Bridgetown CANA in English 0951 GMT
24 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 23, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte has pledged to promote national dialogue in an orderly fashion and has told foreigners to stop meddling in Guyana's affairs. "... During this year, we will have to do some deep and intense thinking, as a nation, on a wide range of weighty subjects that will have a profound influence on the direction, shape, quality and future of our society," he said in a speech marking Guyana's 20th anniversary as a republic early on Friday [23 February].

He however cautioned against Guyanese rushing along in a haphazard way with the recently-initiated national dialogue. He said if this were going to be a useful and productive exercise, it would have to be conducted within an orderly framework which allows for full participation of all citizens—either as individuals or through their socio-economic organisations.

"The process of dialogue will, of necessity, be complex. And, while we would all like to see it proceed as quickly as possible, it would not be sensible—indeed it might be dangerous—to rush along in a haphazard way. This could lead to the exclusion of the views of large segments of the society and result in superficial conclusions."

He also said it was important to understand that the process of national dialogue is not be a partisan exercise, not an opportunity for gaining publicity or an occasion for scoring debating or political points. His remarks on

the question of the national dialogue is seen as a response to criticisms in opposition circles that the process is progressing too slowly.

On the question of foreign intrusion, he said there were unfortunately, "a few misguided persons" who believe that they can gain "some partisan advantage" by inviting foreigners to intermeddle in the country's internal processes. "It is a sad fact that some political and crypto-political factions are even being financed by foreign money," he added.

"Herein lies a great danger to our country. We must resist vigorously any attempt by strangers to manipulate our domestic transactions and arrangements; and we must oppose implacably, anyone who seeks to encourage such intervention. Unless we prevent or neutralise such intrusions, we would lose not only our self-respect, but ultimately, even our political independence."

He said all loyal Guyanese who love their country, have a duty to protect themselves and Guyana from such a danger. "This duty, we must discharge fearlessly—and ruthlessly, if necessary."

Meanwhile, commenting on the first 20 years of the Co-operative Republic, President Hoyte contended that they were "20 years of arduous endeavour" but years, in the course of which, Guyanese have succeeded in transforming Guyana "from a miscellany of ethnic and cultural groups into a stable nation committed to the ideal of a just, humane and democratic society."

The Guyana Government has long been criticised for its human rights record which it has stoutly defended.